

Jan/Feb 1991
Number 23
75p ■ Free to members

L abour P arty N ews



The better way for Britain

Inside ■ Training and Industry Campaign Special

If your answer's right, the money's yours.

All proceeds from this competition will go to help Labour finance victory at the next General Election. So every entry you make will boost our chances... and if you win the £10,000 prize as well, you'll have two wonderful reasons to celebrate!

(eligible UK voters March '90 43,663,423)

Data Protection: Naturally, Labour will never make your name and address available to commercial organisations for their own private gain. But, if they wish to support our work, we may occasionally allow carefully-screened companies and organisations to contact you. If you would prefer not to receive these communications, please tick this box. ☐

[illegible]

Towards a top class economy

The Labour Party
150 Walworth Road
London SE17 1JT
071-701 1234

Leader

Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock MP

Deputy Leader

Rt. Hon. Roy Hattersley MP

Chair

Tom Sawyer

Treasurer

Sam McIluskie

General Secretary

Larry Whitty

Director of Policy

Development

Groff Dill

Director of Organisation

Joyce Gould

Director of Campaigns

Anthony Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

John Giddens

The Labour Party enters 1991 with confidence that in this year the British people will elect us to carry through our programme for economic vitality and social justice.

■ We believe that Britain can and must play a positive part in building the new Europe and a new world order of security, cooperation and peace.

■ We believe that it is essential to stimulate investment of all kinds and – above all – to make the investment in people's abilities, and enable our country to compete successfully in Europe and the World.

■ We believe in strengthening the sense of community in Britain and making it effective by developing the health and other public services which are basic to a decent and efficient country, by raising pensions to give security to the retiring, and by increasing child benefit to combat family poverty.

Labour is the only Party which will undertake those tasks with real determination.

We have identified the challenges of the 90s and set out the practical means of meeting them.

We have studied the policies of more successful neighbours and shown how we can adapt those policies to work for Britain.

We have opposed the injustices and waste of the Tory years and at the same time put forward the realistic alternatives that will enable Britain to look to the future with confidence.

The economic crisis facing our country arises from the recession which gets deeper and wider with every day that passes without effective Government action. Unemployment is rising, companies are folding, output and investment are falling away, inflation is more than double the rate of our European competitors. The squeeze is gripping financial and consumer services as well as manufacturing industries.

There has never been a more clear instance of a country being pushed into economic recession

by its own Government.

After 11 years of oil-rich power, the Government has rammed the British economy into reverse gear. John Major, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, followed policies which got the economy into such a rut than even if the Government started to ease the interest rate burden now – as they should – industry and services would still take many months to start pulling themselves out of slump.

With the completion of the Single Market just two years away and the European Community advancing further towards economic and monetary integration, there is urgent need for a radical change in economic policy to give our people and producers a fighting chance in the future.

■ Britain must have the standards of education and training that will put the skills of our people on a par with those elsewhere in the European Community. That is what parents, teachers and employers want. From a Labour Government that is what they will get.

■ Britain needs policies for improved production, for transport modernisation, and for innovation and enterprise that will generate economic advance in all parts of the country.

That is what industries and communities want and are prepared to work for. From a Labour Government that is what they will get.

■ Britain needs relief from the ruinous weight of high interest charges. Like our main competitors, we need to have controls on credit that don't bring closures and investment cuts in industry and crushing pressure on homebuyers. That is what the whole economy requires in order to get out of recession without stoking inflation. And from a Labour Government that is the constructive policy that Britain will get.

Labour has the policies that will help to turn our country into a top class economy and bring out the best in Britain.



Photo: Andrew Ward

Neil Kinnock

HELP LABOUR MAKE IT A FAIRER FIGHT

The date of the General Election draws ever closer and we must not let the Tories spend their way to victory again! You can help Labour make it a fairer fight. In a recent fundraising letter the Tories claimed "we have very limited funds... we need all the help we can get". Don't believe it,

they are planning to spend a staggering £25 million in the next Election. Last time Labour could only afford £4 million. That's why we need your help, and we need it now.

Complete the standing order form on the label carrier of LPN to make a regular contribution to our Fighting

Fund. And if you can manage to give £7.50 or more each month, and reply by February 28 1991, we'll send you a copy of Barbara Castle's Diaries FREE.

Remember it's vital for Labour to be ready for a snap Election at any time – and that means having money in the bank.

Youth Conference

Labour's second National Youth Conference, held in Bridlington in November, was attended by over 100 delegates from Young Socialists, trade unions, Labour students and local parties. They attended workshops on a wide variety of issues and listened to more than 30 speakers, including MPs Clare Short and David Blunkett, and MEP Carole Tongue. Alun Parry, seen here addressing Conference, was re-elected as Youth representative on the National Executive.

Volunteer for Victory

As the General Election approaches, the Party is already geared up for the campaign. But there is still a chance to work as a volunteer during the four-week campaign in a number of departments at Walworth Road. If you're interested and have clerical, secretarial or administrative skills please send a CV (including Party membership details) to Mike Watts, Director of Personnel, Resources and Training at Head Office. We may also need bikers/messengers and drivers (over 23) with a clean licence. Please give details of your availability and how soon after the Election is called you could begin work.

Raising funds

The London Labour Party Lottery has just moved into the big time. Because of the success of the lottery the London Region has had to move their lottery up a division and are now registered with the Gaming Board. £150,000 profits last year went to constituencies. Sixty constituencies have taken part making anything from a £1,000 a year up to £20,000. If you're interested in making funds for your London CLP, contact Maragret McDonagh or John Sauly, on 071-703 6511.

BETTER CHILD CARE

Joan Lestor MP is to be the main speaker at the launch of a new group campaigning for accessible and affordable childcare. The Hillingdon Childcare Action is meeting on February 13, at 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Belmont Road, Uxbridge. Refreshments and creche facilities will be available. Contact: Ruth Willis, Hillingdon Childcare Action, 20 Boxwood Close, West Drayton, Middx., UB7 9PD. Tel: 0895 50780/2.



West Midlands economy

Jack Cunningham MP launched a West Midlands Regional Labour Party Report on the state of the Region after 11 years of Tory neglect. He said, "The West Midlands will be a key battleground at the next General Election. We know from our emphatic victory at Mid-Shropshire that the people here are ready to support Labour." The Report examined the Region's economy and Labour's Plans for Education and Training to assist in the rebuilding of the Region's eco-

nomie base. The Report drew attention to the fact that only 45 per cent of the Region's 16-year-olds had remained in full-time education and that they have the highest percentage in mainland Britain of workers with no educational qualification. The Report, *Building the Regional Economy - Education and Training*, can be obtained from Fraser Kemp, Regional Organiser, West Midlands Regional Labour Party, 323 High Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 8LU.

No bull

If you don't believe in bull-fights, but want to visit Spain then why don't you book a holiday to Tossa de Mar on the Costa Brava? The Mayor of the town has just banned bull-fights, but is concerned that this may lose them valuable tourist trade. The town is also holding an international conference on animals and the environment in May 1991. If you're interested write direct to Ajuntament de Tossa de Mar, Carrer Esglosia, 4, 17320 Tossa de Mar (Girona).

CZECH MATES

Antonin Machala, chair of the Social Democratic Party in the Uherske Hradiste region of Czechoslovakia, writes to LPN to obtain contacts with members of the Labour Party. He says, "Since the principles of your Party are similar to ours we should like to make friends with members of your Party in a similar region." If you're interested write direct to Antonin Machala, Maratice 873, Uherske Hradiste, Czechoslovakia.

In remembrance

Anita Gale, Regional Organiser, reports on the loss to the Wales Labour Party of Cliff Prothero. Cliff, 92, was the first Regional Organiser for the Party in the Eastern Counties and then the Welsh Party Organiser until his retirement. Cliff began his working life, and his trade union involvement, at 13 years of age. He was responsible for uniting the South and North Wales Parties forming the Wales Labour Party. In

1965 he was awarded the OBE for political and public services.

Geoffrey Foster, retired Southern Regional Organiser, died on New Year's Day after 61 years' service to the Party. Geoff's work for the Party started in 1932 when he joined the Youth League. He served in various posts up and down the country, the last one at the age of 76 when he acted as agent for the West Kent Euro-constituency.

Have you any news?
Write to LPN,
150 Walworth Road
London SE17 1JT

THE GREAT NORTH FAMILY GALA

6 The North has a long tradition of big family days out and in June over 20,000 people will enjoy a day of fun events for all the family. At the heart of this will be a major rally addressed by Neil Kinnock. The gala will be held in Gateshead International Stadium on Saturday, June 8 10am to 5pm. Admission: £3 (£1.50 concessions). Contact: Janet Anderson at Head Office. Tel: 071 234 3077.

A major commercial exhibition is planned as part of the day's events. If you wish to exhibit contact: Jackie Bate or Tom Owen at Head Office. Tel: 071 234 3301/2.



Photo: RNIB

GOT IT TAPED

The Royal National Institution for the Blind (RNIB) Talking Book Studios recently had Tony Benn MP reading the foreword to his book, *Against the Tide - Diaries 1972-76*, which is being recorded by the RNIB. Tony said, "It was a real pleasure to read the foreword, say a few words to talking book listeners and play a few snatches from the original tapes." There are about 6,000 talking book titles which are enjoyed by over 70,000 visually impaired people. Contact: RNIB 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA. Tel: 071 398 1266.

Progressive women

The West Midlands Region has almost completed its round of parliamentary selections and is most encouraged by the fact that of the candidates 37.5 per cent are women. Of candidates selected for seats in the whole of the Region 29 per cent are women. The Region already has 22 per cent of MPs who are women. Fraser Kemp said, "We realise the figures are still not good enough, but we are pleased with the improvement and we are hoping that local election selections will follow the same pattern."

As I was saying ...

Winner of LPN's caption competition was Terry Ryan, of Tuebrook Liverpool, with "Poll Tax? Forget the Poll Tax. One of you has swiped my custard cream!". Congratulations Terry, hope you'll enjoy the books.

GET AFFILIATED

Trade Unionists created the Labour Party and this Government wants to ignore working people and their unions. By working with Labour MPs many gains have been made for workers and their families and we need to protect the gains already made. Thirty four independent trade unions are affiliated nationally to the Labour Party and all of these unions encourage their branches to affiliate to the local constituency party. Is your union branch affiliated to your CLP? Find out and, if not, get it to do so. For more information contact the Trade Union Liaison Officer at Walworth Road.

Tory funds

We all know how important it is that the Party raises money for its General Election fighting fund but have you thought about where the Tories and other organisations receive their funding? *Company donations to the Conservative party and other political organisations* can be obtained from Walworth Road. It also looks at Tory secrecy and Tory funds and the Poll Tax, and some notes on The Economic League, AIMS and Centre for Policy Studies. The report costs £2 plus 10 per cent p&p and can be obtained from Sales Office, Walworth Road quoting reference M/138/90.

Tour of Europe

Ian White, MEP for Bristol, and Anita Pollack, MEP for London South West, recently had members of their Euro-constituencies visiting them at the Community institutions. Both groups visited the cities of Brussels and Strasbourg taking in a visit to the Parliament. A subsidy is available from the European Parliament to help pay for the tour.



Labour Heritage

Simon Fowler, Secretary for Labour Heritage would like to know more about Party activity during World War II. "The 1945 election was the greatest triumph in our history", says Simon, "but what happened to the movement during the war is often forgotten." Labour in the Second World War is a conference to be held on April 7 1991, in London. Simon is looking for people who recall keeping local parties and trade union branches going in difficult times, or who argued for socialism in the armed forces. If you're interested in speaking, contact Simon Fowler, 13 Grove-wood, Sandycroft Road, Kew, Richmond, TW9 3NF (081-948 1838) as soon as possible.

STOP THE ROT

Battersea and Wandsworth Trade Union Council have appointed Shonagh Methven to organise the fight against cuts imposed by Tory-run Wandsworth Council. The post has been created to publicise the other side of the Wandsworth story. The needs of the people of Wandsworth have been ignored to present a rose-tinted view of the Tory flagship borough with the lowest Poll tax. For more information contact: Shonagh Methven, Trades Council Office, 177 Lavender Hill, London SW11 5TE. Tel: 071 228 5638.



WOMEN AND HEALTH

The Scottish Labour Women's Committee recently discussed health services as part of a continuing campaign by the Labour Party to win women's votes. The meeting was held in Fife and chaired by Jean McDonald, NUPE Branch Secretary, who introduced the speakers. They were Esther Quinn, from Trades Unions for Labour and Rachel Squire, Labour's PPC for Dun-

fermline West and NUPE's Education Officer. Rachel spoke about the Party's role in the campaign to keep full maternity services in both Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy. Anna Rowley, attending the meeting, said, "Support Labour and don't be just a number in the NHS." The Women's Committee has plans for a Well Woman Education Campaign bus to tour the villages in Fife.

Support our schools

Crumbling schools

In December Jack Straw released detailed figures that showed how little the Conservative Government were investing in our school buildings. Launching the campaign document *More Crumbling Schools* he said:

"The Government's record on crumbling schools is simply appalling. The backlog of repairs to school buildings is now estimated at £4 billion; the statutory regulations on school buildings, passed in 1981 were due to come into force next year, but have been postponed to avoid the hundreds of court actions that angry parents would bring. Capital spending on local authority schools is still not back in real terms to the level of nine years ago."

Local Authorities recognise this and have asked the Government to be allowed to borrow £1.4 billion for urgent rebuilding and repairs. They received less than 40 per cent of this necessary sum.

In contrast, Government capital spending in the four City Technology Colleges opened in September is, per pupil, 80 times the level that the Government allows the LEAs to spend on their LEA pupils.

So much for a classless society.

The document *More Crumbling Schools*, (BO4790) gives local figures and examples from your area. It's available from Labour Party Sales, price £1, including p&p.

School governors

Not long ago to be a Labour governor was a bit like being a mayor – a status job but not reckoned to be real politics. Wards were not ready to get excited about reports back about the sensitive practices at a local school or how many youngsters leave at 16.

Now it's all changed. Comrades have tumbled to the fact that education is central to politics – how we think it

should happen is also our vision of the nation's future.

You don't have to be an education expert – the teachers, inspectors and education officers are that. You should stay out of the day to day running of the school – the head does that. Your job, together with the other governors, is to make sure everything's going in the right direction. If exam results are down on last year you ask why; if girls are doing worse than boys at physics you ask what can be done about it; if the history department is in trouble you ask if there's a plan to remedy the situation.

It's easier to ask good questions if you are familiar with the school. Being a governor isn't just about sitting on a committee: you need to arrange to go in and have a look round, see how a class is run, peer at the leak in the roof, have coffee in the staffroom, eat the school dinner, spend at the summer fete and clap at the Christmas concert. A governor who is generally supportive will be listened to with trust and respect and can be a considerable force for change.

The job is, of course, becoming even more serious with the imminent decentralisation of most of the education budget – and the power (and the responsibility) – to schools. Heads and governors will soon be making decisions about such matters as how many teachers to buy, how best to get that leaky roof mended, whether with dwindling resources, money should be spent on transport to sports centres for PE students, extra help for students. That's just for starters – so don't tell me being a governor is not political.

If there's a vacancy at a school near you and you're interested, the best bet is to ring up the Chair and arrange for a chat. If you decide to go for it, once you've a better idea of the set up there's plenty of support and training around. All you have to do is supply the will and a few days a year of your time.

Val Bynner

Tom Sawyer, Chair of the National Executive Committee, looks at the importance of political education

Everybody who takes the Chair of the NEC has to decide what they might be able to do to help the Party. Besides continuing the work that I've done over the past five years as Chairman of the Home Policy Committee, this year in particular I'd like to do something about linking policy with education. I think that's the big gap in the Party's approach to policy making – that we don't really underpin our policy discussions with any real Party political education.

Consequently I persuaded the National Executive to establish a Political Education and Training Committee. The secretary will be Paul Simpson, our new Political Education Officer, and Diana Jeuda has been elected Chair. They can make a start on some basic work on linking the Party's policy and campaigning objectives with some political education. We can't do a lot – we haven't got much money – but the people who are starting off are very committed. They want to build on this after the election, when Labour comes to power.

Then, we'll need to legislate

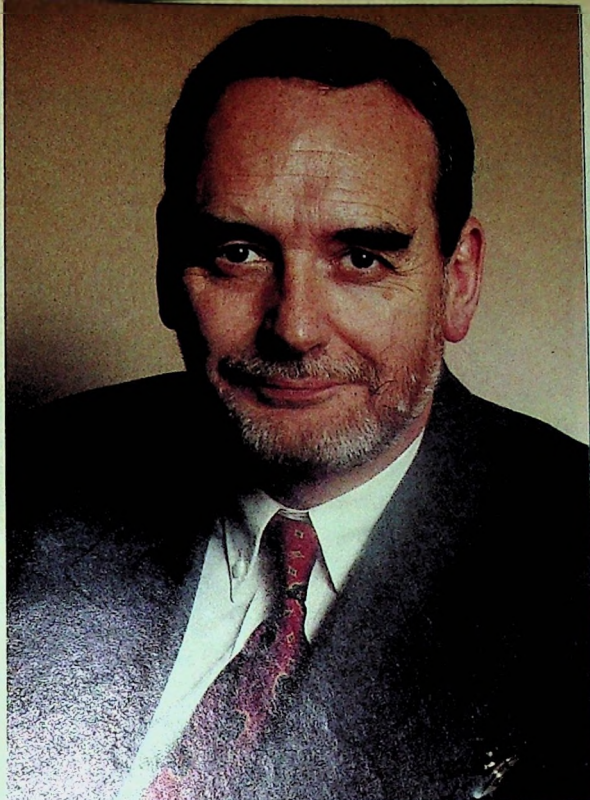
for state funding for political education and training. The German SPD gets £25 million a year just for independent political education and training. I'm not saying that we shall need that amount of money but it gives you some kind of yardstick against which to measure the enormous gap that exists between most of our European sister parties and the Labour Party.

It's important to make a small start now and to carry it further when Labour's in office. I also think it fits in well with the plans we've got for the new Policy Forums and Policy Commissions. After the election the Policy Committee which I chair will cease to function – certainly in its present form. Policy making will be made by the new Policy Forums and Commissions which will involve many, many more people and have proper grassroots representation in the policy making process. To work alongside that we must have political education. We can't have people elected to high responsibility in policy making without a proper political education and training programme to go along with it.

When Labour comes to power again this will be a big improvement because in the past Labour's ministers were isolated in a sense from the policy making procedures unless they were on the National Executive Committee. With the new Policy Forums and Commissions, all Labour's ministers will be involved so people accepting high responsibilities in the Labour Cabinet will have somewhere to come along and talk to people in the Party about their difficulties. In that way we should build a much closer working relationship.

We'll be organising some Chairman's Forums in the regions to talk about the new policy making procedures and the new political education programme. The first will be in the East Midlands in February.

Politica



Women's Education

The new Political Education and Training Committee has suggested that women's education for the Labour Party should be a priority. Much useful work has been done in the past and it would be useful to hear about it. Information will be collected from the regions but if you have run any interesting education events for women the new Committee would like to hear about them.

Send any information to the Political Education Officer at Walworth Road. The new initiative on women's education will be concerned to put into practice the conclusion of the NEC statement to Conference 1990 *Representation of Women in the Labour Party* that "significant resources and energy need to be put into political education and support for women members to ensure that they can take a full role in Party activity".

A Political Education Campaign with TUFL

The Labour Party and TUFL are running a Political Education Campaign in 1991. It's called "Campaigning for Labour" and the idea behind it is cascade training. A National Workshop for national union officers and regional TUFL committee members will be followed by meetings in each TUFL region which will set up local briefings for activists which will be designed to get campaigning messages to trade union members.

The campaign will be about organisation and policy. The education pack has been designed to be used flexibly so that unions at local level can decide the priorities for them. They can concentrate on key organisational tasks like getting postal and proxy votes, encouraging voter registration and helping key seats with canvassing and also do some work on promoting our policies on education, health, the environment, the economy and rights at work.

Education for the General Election

The North West ran a very successful General Election Training Workshop for key officers from constituencies throughout the region. Eighty two people turned up even though the area was afflicted with dense fog on the day.

Participants got down to business with a review of election organisation. Constituency groups drew up a list of organising tasks which needed to be done in the run up to the election and worked out how they would organise a campaign team to do them. Then they prepared a General Election timetable and a campaign planning schedule.

The next phase of education and training will be a political education day on key policies for constituency political education officers and campaign committee members. This will aim to devise a strategy for branch discussions on Labour's key policies in the period before the General Election.

Organising Political Education – a guide

Work is in progress to produce a practical guide which will prevent panic when the speaker you have booked to do a political education session cancels at the last minute. How is this possible? Simple – you do it yourself.

The guide is being planned around certain key organising ideas and organising tools. Some of the key ideas include using small groups to structure discussion, developing a political education calendar, building study circles. Organising tools include a simple guide to planning and running a political education session, developing a support structure for local political education work and using *Labour Party News* materials as the basis for local discussion.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN POLITICAL EDUCATION?

Fill in this questionnaire and post it to The Political Education Officer, The Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT.

1 Do you allocate time for in-depth discussions of key policies on your branch agenda?

Regularly ☐
Sometimes ☐
Rarely ☐

2 What methods do you use for political education sessions?

Visiting Speaker ☐
Small Group Discussions ☐
Other (please specify) ☐

3 What support for political education work would you find most useful?

4 Other comments.

Name: _____

Address: _____

CLP Branch _____

Please continue on separate sheet if necessary

A fresh start for health



Neil Kinnock MP, Harriet Harman MP and Robin Cook MP launch Labour's policy document on the health service

LPN reports on Labour's policy document on the health service

Underfunding Labour will tackle the underfunding of the NHS in order to redress the neglect of the past decade. We will also recognise the additional claims on health service resources which arise from the increasing number of very elderly people, and the development of medical technology.

Targets To ensure that extra funds are put to priority use and that they deliver value for money, Labour will set targets in public health and health care. These targets will be expressed in performance

agreements with health authorities that reflect local circumstances and form the basis of their budget allocations.

Flexed budgets Labour will adopt a new system of flexed budgets that will release extra funds to those authorities who have exceeded their performance targets in priority areas.

District Health Authorities. These will be supervised by Strategic Boards who will set local targets and standards of performance to the operational management who will be left maximum freedom on meeting those targets.

Quality Commission We will create a Quality Commission to encourage the spread of best practice between health authorities.

Labour created the



Christine Crawley MEP, has good news for pregnant women

In its December 1990 Strasbourg session, the European Parliament led by the Women's Rights Committee gave massive backing to the proposal from the European Commission for a major directive aimed at protecting and improving the rights of pregnant working women and women who have recently given birth.

This is a significant step forward for women at work and the first real action from the European Social Charter, aimed at women.

The significant difference between this and past proposals for EEC directives aimed at improving women's

lives, is that this directive needs only a majority of the council of Ministers in its favour for it to become EEC law and not the usual unanimous vote.

The draft directive gives pregnant women, as a right, a minimum maternity leave entitlement of 14 weeks on full pay with the flexibility of further time on 80 per cent pay. Women in the UK at present get six weeks maternity leave on 90 per cent pay if they qualify and the eligibility criteria are extremely strict.

Under the proposed directive any woman working since the beginning of her pregnancy, whether full or part-time, would be eligible; the draft directive applies to all companies irrespective of their size. Ante-natal examinations would be counted as part of working time and women would not lose pay for attending them. There would be a ban on dismissals for any reasons linked with pregnancy.

The British Government will try their best to halt this directive's progress and a major campaign must be launched by women in the labour and trade union movement to ensure its successful passage.

National Health Service and is committed to its success. Our first priority is to help the public stay healthy. We will set targets for the reduction in major diseases such as lung cancer and coronary heart disease; we will establish an independent Food Standards Agency; we will ban tobacco advertising except at the point of sale; we will tackle the unacceptable delays in the screening programmes; we will bring back free eye tests and free dental checks.

Our next priority is to provide a health service that offers patients who fall ill the treatment they need in the hospital of their choice. We will also give a new emphasis to the care of patients in the community. We will appoint a Minister of State for Community Care; we will provide an

earmarked, ringfenced grant for the services local authorities provide for community care; we will merge District Health Authorities with the Family Health Service Authorities to provide continuity of care between hospital and community and to encourage general managers to give greater priority to services based in the community.

Labour's Charter for Patients will ensure that high quality health care is matched by modern standards of service. *A fresh start for health* is Labour's blueprint for a modern NHS to meet the needs of the 90s.

A fresh start for health (BO43/90) is available from Labour Party Sales and costs £11 for organisations and £2.75 for individuals (inclusive of p&p).

European comparisons – maternity leave entitlements

Denmark	28 weeks on 90 per cent of salary
Italy	20 weeks on 90 per cent of salary
France	16 weeks on 100 per cent of salary
Spain	16 weeks on 75 per cent of salary
Germany	14 weeks on 100 per cent of salary
Britain	6 weeks on 90 per cent of salary

Campaign on Health

How will Labour improve the Health Service?

Extra resources alone won't produce the health service Labour wants – but without extra resources, little can be achieved. The present financial crisis in the NHS developed over many years and will take time to put right – but we are determined to tackle the legacy of neglect.

But Labour's strategy for health goes wider than just the NHS. We are committed to action to prevent avoidable illness, to promote good health and to reduce inequalities in health across the country.

And we intend to give a much higher priority to care in the community – for those people who are elderly or disabled, and those who care for them.

What will Labour do to improve Community Care?

There are six million people with disabilities in the country, many of them elderly, and an equal number of informal carers. Far too few of them are able to rely upon adequate support from the health and social services, and most subsist on a wholly inadequate income.

Labour will ensure that community care is given the priority it deserves. We will appoint a Minister for Community Care to oversee and co-ordinate progress. We will work in partnership with health and social services to improve the level, flexibility and quality of residential, home care and day services. Full time carers will be supported by a new Carers' Benefit, and there will be improved respite facilities to give carers a break.

We will set targets for a shift of mental health resources into the community, to prevent those people who are discharged from long-stay hospitals ending up on the streets or in prison because there are no adequate alternatives.

THE TORY RECORD – A LOST DECADE

Since 1979 the Tories have:

- Closed 27,500 acute hospital beds since 1979 – almost one in five of the total
- Allowed waiting lists to spiral. Almost a million people are now waiting for hospital treatment
- Starved the hospital service of cash, forcing health authorities to shut beds and cancel operations in a series of crises. This winter (1990/91), 3,000 to 4,000 beds will be shut because the Government is demanding that health authorities clear their debts by April
- Failed to invest in essential maintenance and repairs, so that the NHS now has a £1.8 billion backlog of such work
- Raised prescription prices from 20p per item in 1979 to £3.05 this year, and introduced charges for eye tests and dental checks, which have resulted in a slump in the number of people having these tests
- Closed 460 hospitals totally, with another 230 partial closures over the last decade
- Allowed the proportion of our national wealth devoted to the NHS to fall since 1980, from 5.4% GDP in that year to 5.1% in 1989/90
- Presided over widening inequalities in health status between rich and poor – with nearly every major cause of death more prevalent amongst manual workers than those in higher social classes.

LABOUR'S PLANS FOR THE HEALTH SERVICE

► Labour will make the prevention of illness and the promotion of good health a national priority. We will pursue a vigorous public health strategy, linking into the actions of other government departments which seek to reduce poverty, improve safety standards and reduce health risks in the environment

► We will improve screening services, which play a vital role in the early detection of illness. Immediate priorities include bringing back free eye and dental checks, and seeking to reduce the interval between screening, results and treatment in these programmes, such as for cervical cancer

► We will rebuild our National Health Service, by introducing a system for funding hospitals which ensures that no beds or operating theatres are left unused because of lack of money.

► Patients will have a new Charter of Rights, setting out clear and explicit entitlements, such as the right to information about alternative treatment

► Everyone should be able to rely upon the highest quality standards of treatment and service from the NHS. Our Health Quality Commission will set standards, and we will seek improvements in the comfort and convenience of NHS facilities

► We want to keep services local where they are most convenient for users. We will insist that no closure decisions can be taken without a full appraisal of costs and benefits – including any increased travel costs for patients and their visitors.

How will Labour campaign on Health?

Labour Party members must campaign against the Government's plans for and record on, the NHS, and on the positive agenda for a Labour government.

This means using every opportunity at both the local and national levels, to draw attention to hospital and bed closures, spiralling waiting lists, health care charges, and the dangers of hospitals opting out of health authority control.

It also means campaigning positively around Labour's policies – for the prevention of illness and health promotion; women's health; a better funded health service and a Charter of Patients' Rights. Workers in the NHS are also a target for our campaigns, where we can emphasise our commitment to a minimum wage, full funding of pay awards and an end to compulsory competitive tendering.

Our new policy document, *A Fresh Start for Health* is available as the basis for local campaigns, as is information about bed losses, waiting lists and cuts

Will Labour reverse the Tories' plans for the NHS?
The Tories want to see an NHS within which public and private hospitals trade services and compete for patients in a health care market.

Opted-out hospitals, GP fund-holders and contracts for patient care are all means to an end – a competitive, market system.

Labour will bring opted-out hospitals back into democratic health authority control and introduce measures to ensure health care facilities do not have to trade services and shop around for the best and cheapest deals for their patients

Labour in Scotland



**Donald Dewar MP,
Shadow Secretary of
State for Scotland,
reflects on the lessons
of the Paisley victories**

It was a hard-fought election and a very satisfactory result. In both seats the Tories polled below the very miserable levels that they had achieved in the disastrous 1987 General Election, the Nationalists made no real advance and, of course, the important thing is that there was a very confident local Labour vote which is very encouraging.

Mrs Thatcher's resignation just a week before the by-elections added an air of unreality to events. Normally, the Paisley by-elections would have dominated the Scottish press – but we didn't get the spotlight of attention because of the thunderous noises off! For all that, people were very conscious of the fact that they were casting a historic vote and that vote was clearly in favour of a change of government, not just a change of Tory leadership.

On the doorstep, the Poll Tax mass non-payment campaign turned out to be an electoral liability for the SNP. Again and again, people were complaining that they were having to pay higher Poll Tax charges to finance the political posturing of the Scottish Nationalists. The Nationalists themselves recognise that they're in deep trouble over that and they're desperately trying to scramble out! They've got this wonderful new phrase – "a lower level of opposition" – which means that any

The victors of Paisley North and Paisley South – Irene Adams and Gordon McMaster



Major/Heseltine reforms will be accepted as an alibi by the Nationalists, almost irrespective of what they are. It's a position that contrasts strongly with Labour's pledge to abolish the Poll Tax and it's one which, I believe, will carry no credibility with the Scottish electorate.

The Tories have got themselves into an impossible situation on the Poll Tax – John Major himself said last November "I don't know what we'll have to do and neither does anyone else." I think there'll be a lot of running around, headless-chicken style, in Conservative High Command trying to think of a way out of that!

The Poll Tax is still a very major point because the majority of people think it's essentially unjust. It's not just a matter of how much you pay – it's that the division of the burden is seen as being totally divorced from civil reality and social justice. I think the Tories will find it very hard to overcome that, particularly because it was sold on the false principle of accountability – which means that even the poorest in the land have to pay something. The idea that, if you can't pay local government taxation, you can't be trusted with the vote, would be a very odd principle to apply, for example, to income tax and national taxation.

The Labour Party in Scotland has always believed that Scotland is part of the United Kingdom – it's a partnership, we pool our resources and we share what we have on the basis of need. I think that to campaign on the platform of nationalism is

a rather outdated and disruptive approach. What we have to offer is the most rounded plan for constitutional change that there has ever been. We've worked with great determination and flexibility in the Scottish Constitutional Convention to reach an agreement. We're looking for a directly-elected parliament in Scotland dealing with many areas of domestic policy, within the framework of the United Kingdom. I believe that not only will that be beneficial for Scotland, but it will be strengthening for the United Kingdom as a whole.

LPN reports on the Paisley by-elections

The Paisley by-elections of last November were the first post-Thatcher test of electoral opinion. The people of Paisley made it resoundingly clear that a change of Tory leadership was irrelevant – what the voters wanted was a change of government.

Both constituencies have had fairly large Labour majorities for most of the post-war era. But in a by-election, different factors came into play – notably a heavy concentration of resources by the SNP and the Liberal Democrats. And, of course, these by-elections took place amid hectic press coverage of the Tory leadership crisis.

Despite these distractions, the Labour Party candidates – Irene Adams in Paisley North and Gordon McMaster in Paisley South – were determined to concentrate on the issues and present the electorate with the positive agenda of Labour Party policies. An essential part of this programme was a series of key speeches by Shadow Ministers highlighting Labour's commitment to constitutional reform and the effective delivery of a modern economic and industrial policy at a regional and national level.

Irene Adams describes the reaction to the Paisley Agenda: "The reception has genuinely been very positive. We concentrated on our proposals for fundamental constitutional change and our economic and industrial strategy for Scotland. A vital point to emphasise was our commitment to a minimum wage – it's a radical commitment and very important for low paid workers in tackling the issue of poverty in this country. It's particularly important for women – 70 per cent of all women workers in Scotland are low paid. We calculate that Labour's promise to introduce a national minimum wage at half male median earnings would benefit one in four workers in Paisley and most of those would be women."

Throughout the campaign there was a constant flow of Scottish MPs and Labour frontbenchers visiting the constituencies to reinforce the message. On the day that Mrs Thatcher resigned – just one week

before polling day – the Labour Party candidates and visiting MPs were greeted with huge enthusiasm on the streets of Paisley.

Gordon McMaster describes the euphoria: "It had to be seen to be believed. There was genuine rejoicing and an overwhelming feeling of relief. But behind this was a very positive sense that it was only a matter of time before we got rid of all the Tories. People were saying to me, 'She's gone – that's the first stage. Now, let's get rid of the rest of them!' It's very clear that the leadership of the Tories doesn't matter. It's not the singer, it's the song that matters."

The issues at the forefront of the campaign were Poll Tax, housing, unemployment and the health service. The SNP fought a negative campaign based on non-payment of the Poll Tax, essentially directed at the Labour Councils. Gordon explains how they came unstuck: "There was a lot of resentment towards the SNP because people regard them as a distraction from the real fight which is getting rid of the Tory Government and getting Labour into power. They also resented the Poll Tax non-payment campaign because people who could afford to pay were refusing and throwing the extra burden onto everyone else."

The SNP's central campaign point was that a vote for Labour in Scotland won't affect the overall government of the United Kingdom while so many voters outside Scotland continue to vote Tory. The Labour Party workers in Paisley are convinced that important by-election wins in England – Mid Staffs, Bradford, Bootle – give lie to this theory. Irene sums up: "When we see those sort of results in England it helps us tremendously. It proves that voters, both north and south of the border, are turning to Labour and that now we have a real possibility of winning the next General Election."

TOWARDS A PARLIAMENT FOR SCOTLAND

The Scottish Constitutional Convention is a gathering of people from all over Scotland and every sector of Scottish life. Members include 80 per cent of Scotland's MPs and MEPs and councillors from Regions, Districts and Islands. The churches, unions, business and industry are also represented. The Convention is committed to seeking the kind of constitutional change which will best meet the aspirations of the Scottish people.

The Convention has examined various options for electoral reform, measures to ensure the security of the civil and political rights of the Scottish people, direct links with Europe, economic and regional development incentives and powers of legislation. The Convention is now in the final stages of its deliberations and will shortly present a package which will be campaigned for throughout Scotland. The Labour Party is committed to the establishment of an elected Scottish Parliament in the first year of a Labour Government.

THE PAISLEY AGENDA

13

An important part of the Paisley by-elections' campaign was the launch of the Paisley Agenda – a series of speeches by Labour Shadow Ministers laying out a positive agenda for Scotland, covering the key areas of constitutional change, economic policy and regional industrial development.

The four major policy speeches – Roy Hattersley on Constitutional Reform, Donald Dewar on Regional Policy, Gordon Brown on Industrial Policy and John Smith on the Scottish Economy – are published in booklet form under the title *The Paisley Agenda*. This booklet is available free of charge from January 28 1991 from The Labour Party, Keir Hardie House, 1 Lynedoch Place, Glasgow G3 6AB (041 332 8946).

Polls and surveys

POLLS APART

Rex Osborn, Labour's Political Intelligence Officer, explains how to get useful information from opinion polls

It is all too easy to draw incorrect conclusions from opinion polls. Even political correspondents on respectable newspapers sometimes make hasty judgements about individual polls. Although it must be said that some journalists are well respected among pollsters for their objectivity and analytical skills.

But if certain ground rules are followed, anybody who takes the time can get a lot of accurate information from the opinion polls published in the media. There is not the space here to go into the technical, statistical guidelines that should be followed. However, if we restrict ourselves purely to voting intention figures in published opinion polls, then we can set ground rules for the layperson. Follow these ground rules and your reading of the polls will be pretty close to that of the experts.

1 Only trust polls that have been done by a reputable polling organisation. There are often disreputable organisations about that conduct dubious polls then disappear overnight and their polls should be ignored. As a general rule of thumb (though there are some exceptions), if you have heard of a polling organisation then it is probably reputable. These will be the established pollsters who have years of experience of political polling. Among them are: GALLUP who poll for *The Telegraph*; MORI for *The Sunday Times*; NOP for the *Daily Mail*; HARRIS for *The Observer*; ICM for *The Guardian*;

SYSTEMS 3 who are well known in Scotland and BEAUFORT who are well known in Wales.

There are some less well known pollsters who are reputable such as IFF and MASS OBSERVATION but they rarely do published voting intention figures. There is also a new polling organisation called NMR, which you may not have heard of, which does reputable polling for *The Independent on Sunday*.

2 Never look at any poll in isolation. Always try to get a sense of what is happening from a spread of polls over a period of time. From time to time an individual poll will be out of step with other polls. The jargon word for a poll like this is a "rogue poll" and it should be set to one side. (See rules on sample size and margin of error below.)

3 Always check the details of the poll. These are sample size (ie how many people were interviewed); dates when the poll was conducted; whether the poll was done by telephone or face to face with people; which polling organisations conducted the poll. These details are sometimes hidden away in the article

which accompanies the poll but often they are listed in italics at the end of the article. When listed in a paragraph at the end this is called, again using the jargon, "The Health Warning".

The main thing you are looking for here is the sample size because this is the main indicator of the margin of error in the poll. Without going into the mathematics, the basic thing to remember is that a poll whose sample size is around 1,000 people interviewed will, 19 times out of 20, be within 2 or 3 per cent of accuracy. That means each percentage figure quoted in the poll could be 2 to 3 per cent greater or smaller than it would be in an actual election, which as polls go is fair enough. But remember one time in 20 the margin of error will be much bigger and there is absolutely nothing the pollster can do to prevent this happening. This one time in 20 type of poll is the "rogue poll" mentioned above. The lower the sample size, the greater the chances of inaccuracy so pay less attention to polls with small samples.

The second thing to look for in the "Health Warning" is the number of days over which the poll took place.

Labour lead
clinching to 16pc
aft Tory jitters
Labour
Labour increases
lead over Tories

MORI ICM NMR
ICM Poll
GALLUP
HOW THE OPINION

Opinion polls and surveys play an ever increasing role in the media's reporting of politics. LPN produces a general guide to the polls and statistics on public attitudes to social welfare

Be wary of polls which took only one day to complete because they are vulnerable to individual news items which can bias the people interviewed and throw the whole poll out of kilter. Two days is better, three days is better still, four days is very good, especially if those days include both weekdays and weekend days when pollsters can interview people who have had a chance to see and reflect upon a variety of news items.

4 Finally, be very careful about polls conducted over the telephone. Telephone polls are undoubtedly getting more accurate. Indeed the Labour Party sometimes uses them for private polling. But they still have problems with the Labour vote. They habitually seem to underrate Labour and overrate the Tories and SLD. This is not simply because working class people vote Labour and working class people are less likely to have phones. If that were the problem then the telephone polling organisation could compensate for it by giving extra weight to its working class part of the sample. Whatever the problem is, always assume that phone

polls have got too low a figure for Labour and mentally bump Labour's up 4 or 5 per cent in any phone poll you see.

There is a lot more about polling that would be useful to know and the guidelines above should give you a good start. I hope you enjoy monitoring opinion polls.

THATCHER'S WELFARE VALUES REJECTED

Michael Meacher MP, Shadow Spokesperson on Social Security, reports on the social welfare section of the annual report on British Social Attitudes

The public resoundingly rejected Mrs Thatcher's values on the welfare state a year before her colleagues kicked her out, according to the latest edition of British Social Attitudes.

The report shows that there was a fundamental sea-change in attitudes towards individualism in the last decade with a growing consensus amongst supporters of all parties for a switch towards welfarist, rather than individualist, expenditure priorities.

The survey, which measured changes in public attitudes between 1983 and 1989 found:

- Even the proportion of Tory voters who believe the Government should increase taxes and spend more on services doubled to 48 per cent.
- Two-thirds of the population now reject the view that the welfare state makes people less willing to look after themselves.
- Half support a welfare state which not only meets

the needs of the poor but promotes equality through redistribution.

• Between 1986 and 1989 there was a growth in the number of people who attribute poverty to injustice in society and a decline in those who believe it is inevitable.

Social Security is one of the public's top priorities:

• The universal state Retirement Pension still attracts the greatest support but there is increased support for child benefit showing that Labour's major spending commitments on pensions and child benefit mirror people's major concerns.

• Sadly, people over-estimate the amount of money people on benefit receive. Asked if an unemployed couple on benefit were really poor only 12 per cent said yes. Asked if a couple on £53 per week, the benefit rate for an unemployed couple, were really poor, the number saying yes shot up to 42 per cent.

The survey also shows that, despite the Tories best efforts, state welfare has not become less popular – on the contrary, people have become more and more critical of policies which constrain welfare provision.

The Government's response to public dissatisfaction with their handling of the welfare state has been to offer the wrong remedies, a programme of organisational changes when public opinion clearly favours more public spending on services. In the immediate future, according to the report, the Government seems unlikely to satisfy persistent, and increasingly consensual, demands for improvements in the welfare system.

British Social Attitudes – the Seventh Report is produced by Social & Community Planning Research the largest non-profit making independent social research group in Britain, and is published by Gower Publishing Group, price £17.

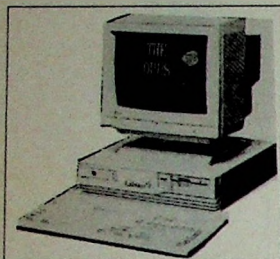


Photo: Universal Pictorial Press & Agency Ltd

ers as
ceptions of key issues
eau
16%
ION POLLS LINED UP

VOTE FOR A WINNING COMBINATION!

The Opus PC IV 286



The Opus PC IV 286

- Up to 16 MB RAM
- Clock speed = 8/16 mhz
- Zero wait-state
- Small footprint case
- 40 MB Hard Disk
- 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 inch Floppy disk drive
- High resolution amber monitor or colour VGA

Opus Technology plc and Computing for Labour have teamed up to produce a winning combination. Everything you need for home or office computing.

A package which offers the choice of quality PCs, printer and tailor-made membership records and electioneering software.

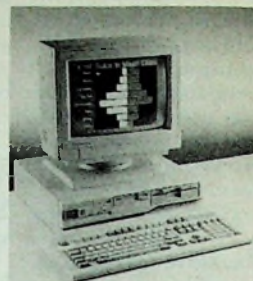
It's an offer exclusive to Labour Party members and affiliated organisations – all you have to do is pick the package you want.

Opus Technology PLC

British intelligence.

Opus Technology plc, Redhill Business Park,
Bonehurst Road, Salfords, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5YB
Tel: 0293-821444. Fax 0293-782612
Computing for Labour 071 701 3665

The Opus Classmate



The Opus Classmate

- 20 MB Hard disk
- 4.77/10mhz clockspeed
- 3 1/2 inch or 5 1/4 inch floppy disk drive
- High resolution amber monitor or colour VGA

Flight Desk announces the launch of its new "Down Under" brochure to Australia and New Zealand. The brochure has a wide range of carriers and destinations to suit all your needs.

You can choose from four of the premier airlines in the world, Qantas, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways and Canadian International with prices starting from as little as £751.00 return. **Please note that as a Labour Party member you receive a 5% discount on any of our fares.**

Included in the air fare is up to 62 days free travel insurance, a free lightweight cabin bag, a travel alarm clock, free inflight drinks and inflight entertainment and on Qantas services, the Qantas connection card which allows you over 2,000 ways of enjoying Australia and saving money on goods and services. As an added bonus, once you book you receive a travellers guide to Australia.

Whilst on route to Australia and New Zealand you should take advantage of Flight Desk special stopover holidays in the Far East or in Canada and the Pacific.

Once you arrive in Australia or New Zealand you may wish to explore these great countries. Included in the brochure are a selection of domestic air fares with savings of up to 60% off the normal fare if you

DOWN UNDER



purchase them with Flight Desk before you leave.

Flight Desk has also teamed up with Rainbow Holidays who specialise in ground arrangements in Australia and as an added bonus you will receive their brochure with your flight confirmation.

In February, Flight Desk will be launching a Round-the-World brochure, offering you a range of fares and routes to meet your requirements.

Apart from Australasia and Round the World fares, Flight Desk can offer the most competitive rates to North America, Africa, Asia and the Far East on all the major airlines.

To obtain prices, simply contact Flight Desk who have details on all the latest offers available exclusively to them. Please remember that when you book with Flight Desk, you receive a 24 hour money back guarantee and when full payment

has been made, a price guarantee against any form of increase.

For all your Long Haul flight reservations you now need to look no further than Flight Desk.

Call us on 061-832 6097 for general enquiries or 061-839 4935 for Australia and New Zealand enquiries.

Perth	from £751.00 rt	New York	from £201.00 rt
Sydney	from £817.00 rt	Boston	from £257.00 rt
Auckland	from £1131.00 rt	Orlando	from £289.00 rt
Bangkok	from £592.00 rt	Los Angeles	from £335.00 rt
Singapore	from £625.00 rt	Toronto	from £184.00 rt
Bombay	from £547.00 rt	Vancouver	from £362.00 rt

Modern Manufacturing Strength

TRAINING & INDUSTRY CAMPAIGN

Photo: David Kumpfner



Left to right: Gordon Brown MP, Joyce Quin MP, Mo Mowlam MP, Nigel Smith MP - from Labour's Trade and Industry team

Gordon Brown, MP, Shadow Minister for Trade and Industry, introduces Labour's programme for Industry

As Britain suffers an avoidable Downing Street-induced recession the Labour Party is this month launching a crusade to speak up for British manufacturing industry, for the workforces now threatened with redundancies, for the regions whose future depends on modern manufacturing strength and for the Labour programme for investment in skills and technology that is needed to bring fresh employment opportunities for the future.

No country has lost more manufacturing jobs - a total of two million lost jobs - than Britain in the last eleven and a half years of Tory government. No country has seen manufacturing output fall in so many key sectors and no European country has a bigger manufacturing deficit than Britain. In 1979 Britain had a surplus of £2.7bn. Now its deficit exceeds £16bn.

Yet even after 10 years when Britain has fallen further behind European manufacturing, this winter it is facing its second disastrous recession in 10 years.

Jobs are disappearing at an average rate of one every two minutes of the working day.

Smaller firms are going under at record rates. And this time no part of the country is immune to recession.

Britain is suffering a far deeper recession than other countries. Investment in Britain next year is set to fall by nearly 4 per cent while it rises in our competitor countries. Eleven and a half years of decline have left us making barely a third as many cars as France, fewer ships than Denmark or Norway, less steel than Italy.

This recession is also the final proof, if proof were needed, that the Tory approach is played out. Their ideological prescriptions have failed. Chronic short-termism has crippled industry's ability to prepare for new products and new markets.

But manufacturing need not continue to decline. There is a way forward that brings Britain modern manufacturing strength.

While the Tory crude free market ideology means that government should do absolutely nothing, Labour's view is that manufacturing matters and that government must work with industry, as in our competitor countries, to bridge the gaps caused by market failures in training, in crossing new technological frontiers, in encouraging long term investment and in ensuring the regions play their full part in national growth.

That is why the first pillar of Labour's industrial policy is to bridge the training gap, with new policies for skills for 16-19-year-olds, and for those in and out of work as we move towards lifelong education for all.

Secondly, Labour will bridge the technology gap with our competitors by our New Frontiers high technology programme, by building a publicly

owned British Technology Enterprise and by supporting centres for innovation in each region so that even the smallest firms can have access to the newest technology at the fastest possible speed.

Thirdly, we will help bridge the investment gap with our competitors with tougher takeover rules to prevent Britain being the Number One takeover capital of Europe and with new policies to increase long term investment in areas like telecommunications under Labour's Manufacturing Investment Scheme.

Fourthly, with our Regional Development Agencies - building on the successful development agencies in Scotland and Wales, we will enable growing firms to generate fresh employment, helping each region to develop new industries.

Labour's manufacturing campaign will be visiting every part of the country, talking to manufacturing workforces. We will be spelling out our alternative - the practical policies for raising investment, preparing the ground for new industries, building up strong development agencies in the regions, helping industry to adapt to new energy efficient and recyclable products and, crucially, investing in the skills people will need to master the next generation of manufacturing technology.

The years of Tory failure have taught Britain the dangers of economic policy based on crude free market ideology. Labour now offers the only realistic programme for sustained and sustainable growth - policies that will help British manufacturing to compete effectively with the best of the rest of the world.

Training



Left to right: John Offord, David Miliband, Tony Blair MP, Ian Roe, Lucy Bailey, Peter Carr

Tony Blair MP, Shadow Employment Secretary, discussed the current crisis in training and Labour's plans for the future with five specialists in the field of training. LPN presents an edited account of their conversation

TONY

Thanks very much indeed for coming to discuss the Labour Party's training policy.

Our policy addresses the question of the need to upgrade skills and training, but it does so linking together individual personal development with overall economic success. We have a position in Britain that is qualitatively different from that enjoyed by our main competitors. It is not merely that in absolute terms Britain is underskilled and underperforming, but in terms comparative to those of our main competitor countries, we are not doing nearly as well as we should do. We need to lift the entire performance of the country economically. There are going to have to be definite policy measures under the umbrella of a partnership between Government and Industry and the other organisations within the community. We have a major crisis, and it is going to require that type of new partnership in order to deal with it.

IAN

The crisis is certainly there and it's immediate. If there isn't a change, particularly in the finance end of training, there are many providers, particularly in the voluntary sector, who will not be in business when the new revolution comes about.

DAVID

It may be useful to think not just about a training crisis in general but about the specific problems of different groups in the population. There are certainly three groups that I would identify: first of all, the people that missed out on a basic education first time round. There are estimated to be six million people who have problems with basic literacy and numeracy.

A second group is specific professions in the population that are suffering from skill shortages – teaching is an obvious one, but also people at that key technician craftsman level in industry who play an absolutely vital role in facilitating the training of people lower down the work hierarchy. Then the third group is people who have moved out of the labour force for some time – women returners are the obvious group. It seems to be vital that the Government steps in to give them the opportunity to come back into the workforce to brush up their skills and play a productive role.

LUCY

I also think it is a training crisis for young people in that they are being offered something that is patently not an adequate training.

JOHN

There was a story in the *Financial Times* recently which put education, industry and training all in a quite neat nutshell. An 82-year-old president of a marine maritime



"Young people need to be made aware of the importance of training opportunities. There must

be further opportunities throughout life for those who miss out at 16."

Lucy Bailey, Women's Officer, National Organisation of Labour Students

engineering firm was wheeled out to deliver the prizes to a Youth Training Scheme and was very proud to announce that he was pleased to see that they had been using the same tools as he had been using during his apprenticeship!

PETER

The demographic figures show that we are not going to have enough young people to solve the skill shortages and that basically means that people who are currently unskilled or semi-skilled in industry are going to need to retrain up to skilled level. I think it creates a large amount of insecurity for individuals and I think the attractiveness of Labour's policy is that it combines both the compulsion of companies to provide that training with the security for the individual through legislation that allows people more of a say over the type of training that they would have.

TONY

One of the major differences between the Labour Party and the Tories is the identification by Labour of the need for a national strategy for training. What concerns me about the Government's approach is this idea that you just turn everything over to local groups of employers and then think the system will work. Of course it won't unless you have that over-arching concept of a national training strategy. I think the other great problem that we see is that the Government's



"Poverty of aspiration has dogged us for far too long. We all need a foundation of knowledge

and skills to see us through adult life."

David Miliband, Research Fellow, Institute for Public Policy Research; co-author of *A British Baccalaureate: Ending the division between Education and Training*

in crisis

spending in relation to training has all been a means of clearing people off the unemployment register through various training schemes whereas, in fact what we need is less emphasis on schemes and more emphasis actually on the basic lifting of the educational standards of people both out of work and in work.

LUCY

You seem to be almost using educational standards and training standards interchangeably, but obviously we have a Department of Employment that deals with training and a separate Department of Education. How is Labour going to ensure that the approach between the two is integrated?

TONY

Well I think it is probably less of an institutional problem than ensuring that you have the correct working arrangements and integration between those things you are trying to achieve for education and those things you are trying to achieve for training. One of the things we are very keen to develop in relation to 16 – to – 19 year olds is that there should be a very much closer relationship between education and training. Probably there should be at least some educational component in any training that takes place between 16 and 19. I would also like to see the standards in relation to training of a comparable nature to those in education so that you

have got one set of qualifications, some of them more academic and some of them more trade-based or of a technical nature, but all of them of that same high standard.

JOHN

I think one of the things that has to be pursued is the question of transferable skills. That is an unpleasant mouthful – what it actually means is a higher level of education in job specific training. It should be the responsibility of the employer. What is required, given the changes in occupational structures, is more education in the training, to lift it to a higher level so people can move through different industrial sectors. Occupations are moving together and requiring a much higher educational content.

TONY

The word training is almost a too narrowing and limiting word for what we are really talking about. Training always has this idea of something that is actually done to you. I think most employers now realise that it is not just a question of having someone who has a technical skill, it is also about having someone who is sufficiently capable of developing initiative and motivation. When we talk about a curriculum in relation to education, we have got a very clear idea of what we mean by that. I think we need to develop some similar notion in relation to training – actually that there are certain basic core transferable skills that will be required.

IAN

Do you have a view about where the money will come from, how it will be directed and who will have access and on what grounds?

TONY

The big mistake that the Tories have made is to link funding simply with specific schemes for training and unemployment. I don't think there is any doubt that in order to make a quantum leap in skills, we are going to have to



"The UK training system is underfunded, underdeveloped and under-performing. We need a change

towards the direction of European best practice to raise standards, increase participation and develop transferable skills for all young people."

John Offord, Researcher in Further Education and Training, NUS

have adequate levels of funding available. I would like, however, to use public funding in a way that gives us some leverage in the upgrading of skills. We should be making it clear that if public money is going to be spent, it should be spent only in pursuit of high quality training and not simply in pursuit of getting people in and out of a scheme. It is important to make sure that your funding is not tied to a specific period of time with training, but is actually tied to the qualifications that you are getting. The Tories believe in a purely voluntary approach and I just can't see how such an approach is going to work. That's why we have gone for the proposition that all employers should spend at least a certain amount, say a percentage of their payroll, on training and to the extent that they don't, the short fall gets paid into either a local or a national training fund to be used for the local or national training effort. The French have already done it under their obligatory contribution system. The Australians are introducing such an obligatory system now. There are a number of different schemes of a legislative nature in Germany and elsewhere: other countries have realised that you require some of these incentives to get people to train as well as simply encourage them to do so.

DAVID

It exemplifies a new way, a new partnership between a potential

Labour Government and business because the new policy doesn't set out simply to punish bad employers. The idea is that every employer has the incentive to train but many small employers don't have the capital or the personnel to make that investment on their own. The idea of a training investment contribution is that you can pool the contributions of a number of small employers and together they (perhaps co-ordinated by a TEC) can come together to take advantage of specialised personnel resources and investment in capital. That seems to me a very good example of Labour intervening to correct an obvious market failure. Individual firms can't make that investment on their own, but when they band together under an incentive from Government they are able to overcome the problem.

LUCY

We have to make sure that it doesn't lead to a lot of window dressing. If you try to introduce those sort of tax incentives for training there is a big, big risk that employers are just simply going to go for window dressing so that it appears that they have done the training for the necessary layers of the workforce rather than actually doing some proper training. We have got to think very carefully about how it works in practice with the TEC system.



"In industry there is no framework for change, either in skills or in organisation and this

leads to insecurity. We need to encourage partnership so employees have a right to training and employers have an obligation to train."

Peter Carr, MSC student, Cranfield Institute of Technology; formerly Manager of Education and Training, AEU



"We need the development and maintenance of quality training and employment opportunities

for all, but especially for those who have the least chance in the employment market. We also need to secure appropriate and long-term financial planning for training providers to avoid short-term guessing and uncertainty."

Ian Roe, Manager, Camden Training Centre

TONY

Yes, the real difficulty is the extent to which you are actually subsidising something that would have occurred in any event. What we are looking at at the moment is developing a non-bureaucratic way of having the system of obligatory contribution. I think it is quite important to realise that we have got the chance now of taking a very considerable part of industry with us as well as those who have been traditionally concerned with training.

PETER

I think that's true, there are a lot of employers who are very concerned with the existing training system. That comes back again to the expenditure of any levy or investment contribution that a company would be compelled to make. The actual monitoring of that is going to be particularly difficult and it is there that a trade union should have a function to ensure that that money is spread round. There are so many horror stories where the investment contribution could be spent on a training course for a group of managers that go off to some luxury hotel and take up the whole of the training budget. The opening up of communications inside the company through the involvement of the union could hopefully help to change that.

DAVID

This raises a very important point because often training, as you have said, is something that is done to people, is done top down. The exciting thing now is that people themselves are the resource. It strikes me that we have been dogged for a long time by a terrible poverty of aspiration - by an education system that has often short-changed people and by employment structures that haven't given them a chance. The striking thing about other countries, beyond the fact that they establish that foundation of skills and knowledge at school, is that it is life long learning that they take very seriously and if we can look at incentives for individuals as well as for companies we can really make some progress.

PETER

We are talking about a new culture inside companies where peo-

ple who, in the past would not have normally undertaken any training throughout their working life, will now have the opportunity to do training which would allow them to progress through their career. One of the big problems that we have in Britain with the division that the Tories have created in the last 10 years is that people are afraid to do that. They are afraid that the manager will take advantage of that and either sack their friends or make them work harder. The framework in which the new skills are applied is very, very important. It can create tremendous opportunities for people but at the same time it can create a lot of insecurity.

One of the problems with TECs at the moment seems to be the concentration of the funding on Government schemes. I think 90 per cent of TEC funding is taken up by YTS and Enterprise Allowance. What would we do about that in the future?

TONY

If TECs have got any possibility of working it seems to me there are two things which are necessary. First of all, they have got to be leading training in their local community. Secondly, they should not become simply a means of delivering various Government schemes. You must put TECs within the framework of a national training policy and ensure that you have got the local community on board. I have always said TECs, in order to work, will need to be fitted within the overall national framework.

IAN

As far as the Labour Party is concerned does it see the inner city areas as special cases that need to be looked at in terms of training, particularly special needs training?

TONY

This is where I think you need to distinguish between the overarching framework and how this is delivered at local level. I think it is probably unfair to TECs to say that it is their fault that those with special training needs are getting left behind at the minute. I think what has actually happened is that if you take the Government's ideology towards TECs and implement it, they are under pressure to make a quick turn around of the money. Now how do you change that situation? I think the

first thing is to recognise that you are going to need to target those groups properly for training. They are not going to require simply being shunted in one door and shunted out the next.

DAVID

Training is not divorced from other elements of economic and industrial policy - most obviously research and development. Expert help, technology transfer and training all come together and that's maybe something that we could exploit with the TEC network. They might provide a really useful local focus for a series of services, not simply training, because training on its own isn't going to transform our economic situation.

TONY

I entirely agree with that. One of the things we will be doing is actually launching an industry policy of which training will be part. We certainly don't believe that you have got training in one compartment area and industrial policy in a separate one. The other important thing to do is to try and get training out to those groups of people whose talents and skills are simply being wasted at the moment and the most obvious example of that is probably the women returners who are now designated under the employment training as non-mainstream and who are facing cuts in child care provision, travelling costs and all the rest of it.

LUCY

What are the Labour Party's commitments to women as part of the workforce?

TONY

The main commitments are these. First of all, in relation to training we would build in as a principal target group women returners. Secondly, in respect of child care provision we believe that everyone should have access to decent child care provision. Thirdly, a very much more active legislative policy in relation to the rights of women both in terms of equal opportunities and in terms of maternity leave. You will know of the various directives that have come out in Europe recently which have been blocked by the UK Government, on better maternity leave provision; better child care provisions, better equal opportunity rights. We would sup-

port those and indeed where possible, improve upon them.

The key point is that people should have an equal right to use their ability and talents to the full. Therefore you do not start from the position that the reason why you encourage women returners is simply because you have got a temporary demographic change in the labour market. That may be an additional economic benefit, but it is not the reason why you are doing it.

LUCY

What is the Labour Party going to do to provide careers guidance? A lot of these discussions have been assuming that people know where they are going and that they have got a fairly good idea of how they could get there if only the opportunity is available to them. I am not convinced that everyone is in that situation.

TONY

No, I think you are entirely right about that. It is one of the uses to which the money raised by the obligatory contribution could be put, which we are examining actively at the moment.

JOHN

I think you need to look at that very carefully. What is essential is that you ensure that people have access to proper independent advice. I think you have got to make sure that whoever is advising is advising from a position of as near objectivity as you can achieve.

DAVID

We have talked a lot about the problems and difficulties we are in and what a deep hole we are going to inherit from the Conservatives. But we also want to give people the sense that they can make a difference and I think the evidence from overseas really is unambiguous. Government can make a difference, and that really is a key thing to get over to people.

TONY

I think you now have a virtual agreement everywhere but in Government that you require this type of partnership to make the thing work. What we have got to do is go out and campaign for it and link the fact that people are gaining as individuals with the overall economic success.

Campaign on Training

Labour proposes a strongly interventionist strategy for training, but shouldn't training be dictated by the market?

The fact is that the market has failed to deliver the skills that our economy so desperately needs. We have the worst trained workforce in the EC. Too many British employers believe they can simply poach skilled labour from another employer rather than invest in their own workforce. At the same time, through their voluntary approach, the Conservative government have also failed in their responsibility for ensuring that companies invest in the skills of our people, thus jeopardising our future economic well being. The only solution is the statutory approach that we have detailed in the Policy Review.

Labour proposes a legal obligation on all employers to spend at least 0.5 per cent of their payroll on training, but will this simply lead to more unemployment, as the Tories argue?

No, not at all. Fifty two per cent of the British workforce receive neither off the job nor on the job training and 20 per cent of all establishments do not undertake any form of training activity. We invest much less than our competitors and as a result have lost out in world markets. It is only through training investment that we can correct this situation and once again prove competitive. This is the only path to creating real jobs and effectively reducing unemployment. Employers who do not spend on training will pay the training contribution, but good employers will not be affected.

THE TORY RECORD

■ Official figures from the European Commission in 1990 show that the UK has the worst trained industrial workforce in the EC. Only 38 per cent of our labour force is skilled compared to 80 per cent in France, 62 per cent in Germany, 56 per cent in Spain and 50 per cent in Portugal

■ The 1990 Autumn Statement shows that the Conservatives plan to cut training funding in the coming year by £300 million in real terms. Between 1989-90 and 1993-4 they plan to cut £1 billion from the training and employment budget in real terms – a cut of 26 per cent

■ In April 1990 Michael Howard dropped the national training targets proposed by his predecessor Norman Fowler. In the Autumn of 1989 Fowler had publicly stated that by 1992 two-thirds of all youngsters should be gaining NVQ level 2 and by 2000 50 per cent of the workforce should be qualified to level 3. These targets are no longer Conservative policy

■ The number of apprenticeships in Britain has fallen by nearly 100,000 since 1979. The Conservatives have abolished 21 of the 23 Industrial Training Boards. In 1983 they abolished one third of the skill centres, in 1990 they closed six more and sold off the remaining 54. They have introduced YTS – now renamed YT – a miserable substitute for proper training, and ET which has proved a failure in helping the long term unemployed

■ A recent Government study *Training in Britain* found that 42 per cent of employees "could not imagine ever undertaking training", that 52 per cent of the British workforce receive neither off the job nor on the job training and that 20 per cent of all establishments do not undertake any form of training

LABOUR'S PLANS

We know that better education and training are essential for our future economic prosperity.

► Labour will establish a new organisation – Skills UK – with the information, structure and finance to direct our new national training strategy

► Labour is firmly of the view that legislation is needed so that no 16-year-old leaves school and goes into work without training

► Labour will replace YTS with this new "Entitlement to Learn" – a new traineeship – for all 16-19-year-olds. This will guarantee training of quality for up to four years which will develop a set of core basic skills for all 16-19 year olds so as to integrate educational and vocational qualifications

► All enterprises will contribute as a minimum 0.5 per cent of their total payroll as a Statutory Training Contribution

► Labour will provide each and every adult – in or out of work – with the right to independent, in-depth careers advice so that they can formulate their own Personal Development Plan

► For small businesses, we shall work with TECs, industry training organisations and local authorities to establish a network of consortiums of smaller companies who can pool resources to provide training

► We shall work with industry and unions to achieve the common goal set out by both the CBI and TUC of strong sectoral industry training organisations

► Labour will introduce a comprehensive system of vocational qualifications covering every area of work

► Labour will establish clear annual targets through Skills UK for the upgrading of skills and ensure that the interests of those with special training needs are properly looked after

Labour proposes to involve local people and trade unions in the delivery of training, but shouldn't training policy be left to businessmen and women?

No. All those with a proven record in delivering quality training must play a part in our new training strategy. To that end we will reform the new Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) to make them more effective, representative and accountable. They must include trade unionists as well as employers, small as well as large businesses, strong representation of women and from the voluntary sector, local authorities and education providers. TECs will be charged with drawing up local training programmes. They will do far more than run government schemes. As well as improving training for young people, women and the long term unemployed, they will help employers upgrade the skills of the existing workforce.

A BRANCH DISCUSSION ON TRAINING

Get your branch to discuss Labour's policy on training. Divide the meeting into groups of four or five and give the groups the questions above to discuss. When the groups report back agree a summary of the key points of Labour's policy on training and its importance in our industrial strategy. Decide how you can help get the message over.

Campaign on Industry

How will Labour regenerate British industry?

The Conservative Government have abdicated responsibility for industry and have encouraged the short-termist thinking which pervades the City. This has deprived Britain of the long term investment which we need to compete effectively with companies abroad.

A Labour Government will provide the framework to tackle the short-termism and regenerate the British economy. Labour will improve access to long term investment finance, it will ensure that all workers have the opportunity of quality training. Within the regions the new regional development agencies will work to ensure that the regions experience sustainable and increased growth. Promotion of civil research and development through such mechanisms as tax incentives, will go hand in hand with facilitating investment in the new high technology enterprises.

How will Labour develop its programme of industrial recovery?

Industrial regeneration is crucial to Britain's economic success and the country's wealth. Securing investment in Britain's infrastructure will therefore be a Government priority. Much of our plan involves creating the framework under which investment by the private sector will increase, rather than direct expenditure: policies that allow lower interest rates, that encourage long termism and set up mechanisms to promote

THE TORY RECORD OF A WASTED DECADE

■ Business failures are now at their highest rate for over 10 years, as a result of a Tory inspired recession

■ In 1978 Britain had a total trade surplus of £956 million. Despite the advantages of North Sea oil the Conservatives have managed to turn the surplus into a deficit of £19.1 billion in 1989 and forecast a deficit of £15.5 billion in 1990

■ Following the Conservative's economic policies of the early 1980s manufacturing investment took until 1988 to recover to its 1979 level. If the level of manufacturing investment had remained constant at its 1979 level, over £26 billion more would have been invested in manufacturing industry in the United Kingdom between 1980 and 1987. Manufacturing investment is now once again falling

■ Instead of tackling this increasing gap the Government has cut regional assistance by over 62 per cent between 1978/9 and 1988/9. National Income in the South East is 26 per cent higher than in the North, in 1979 the gap was 21.8 per cent

■ In 1988 the UK Government spent a meagre 0.55 per cent of GDP on civil research and development, Germany spent 0.92 per cent and France 0.86 per cent. The proportion of industrial research and development met by Government expenditure has declined from 29 per cent in 1978 to 17 per cent in 1988

LABOUR'S PLANS

► Labour will establish a manufacturing investment scheme, which will effectively channel tax incentives to increase investment in industry and reverse the decline in Britain's manufacturing base

► At present there is a serious gap in the financial market which prevents many small and medium sized companies from securing long term access to funds. Labour will establish the National Investment Bank, which will work alongside the investment arms of the Regional Development Agencies to take a longer term view to lending than currently taken by existing financial institutions. The National Investment Bank will also raise finance for major public infrastructure projects

► We will strengthen the rules which govern mergers and takeovers so companies can plan more securely for the long term

► Long term investment in high technology will be promoted through British Technology Enterprises, which will work in partnership with industry and education establishments. A regional network of innovation centres will be developed

► Tax incentives and government grants will be reshaped to encourage civil research and development

► Regeneration of the regions will be led by the establishment of regional development agencies in the English regions. The agencies, based on the successful models of the Welsh and Scottish Development Agencies will work in partnership with the public and private sector as well as the local communities. Within the regions, business advice and assistance will be streamlined, with "one stop shops" offering comprehensive advice

► Consumer rights will be strengthened through the establishment of a Consumer Protection Commission which will cover all the utilities

regional growth.

In addition to working with the private sector to secure investment, we will reallocate money presently being squandered on the Tories' pet projects, such as tax relief on private health care.

In terms of public expenditure we aim for sustained investment at a level the country can afford and over time this will lead to higher economic growth. And investment in the supply side of the economy will take priority over tax cuts.

How interventionist will Labour be?

Experience learnt from 11 years of Conservative "free market" policies has clearly illustrated to the British people that the market alone cannot provide the standards of environmental protection, the levels of investment in research and development, in training or the regions which a modern economy needs. Nor will it ensure that consumers receive the quality services which they rightfully expect. The Conservative Government has refused to acknowledge the failings of the market, therefore intervention when it has happened has been ad hoc and at times inappropriate.

Labour will tackle the market's limitations, by working with the private sector as a facilitator, partner and when necessary a regulator. However, Labour knows that it is not government's job to manage and run companies, that is best done by the people with the expertise, the employers, managers and workforce within the company.

If you care about the environment switch to the

ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

When you take out breakdown and recovery cover for your car, you're buying more than just peace of mind - you're making your own statement about the kind of transport policy you wish to support. The ETA is Britain's only provider of Roadrescue cover which campaigns for environmentally sound transport.

The ETA is ...

■ Reliable

Our operations room has more than 10 years' experience monitoring well over 1000 recovery operators across the UK. Only the most reliable stay on our lists.

■ Fast

When you call us we immediately send out a specialist operator who has been standing by for your call. No queues, you're the only priority, and we get to you fast.

■ Value for money

Our combined Roadrescue package of breakdown, recovery, home-rescue and additional benefits costs £54. The comparable service from the AA and RAC costs you more than £75.

■ Versatile

As well as Roadrescue cover for motorists, we also offer a Helpline for users of all forms of transport, and a cycle insurance policy that includes Britain's first cycle recovery service.

■ Successful

Our partner organisations in Germany and Switzerland are the second-biggest Roadrescue providers in their respective countries and are powerful forces for change. The ETA movement has over 180,000 members.

■ Working for a greener environment

We campaign for reduced pollution, greater investment in public transport, and for pedestrianised town centres. In other words - improving our quality of life.

SWITCH NOW — SWITCH TO THE ETA!

I wish to become a member of the ETA.

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone (daytime)

(home)

If you would like more information on the ETA, please tick ☐

If you have existing breakdown and recovery cover, when does it expire? ☐ ☐ ☐

For family membership:

Name of partner

Names of any children under 18 at above address:

Date of Birth

As a member of the ETA, I would like cover for my car/motorcycle under the ETA's Roadrescue scheme. (Note: Roadrescue includes breakdown, recovery and home rescue cover, and covers the nominated vehicle for any user.)

Make and Model: Registration:

Date Registered Date existing Roadrescue cover expires

Payment

By cheque: payable to ETA Ltd.

By Access/Visa:

Name on Card:

Expiry Date:

Signature:

Access and Visa orders can be made by telephone on 081-666 0445

Send to: ETA, 17 George St., Croydon, CR0 1LA

Individual (£16) £ :

or

Family (£28) £ :

plus

Roadrescue (£38) £ :

Supplement if the vehicle to be covered is aged 10-20 (£10) £ :

Total payable £ :

The Environmental Transport Association is supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Campaign on Eco

Does a single European currency mean we give up sovereignty and the pound?

The process of increased monetary integration within Europe does not automatically require the creation of a single currency, but this appears to be what our EC partners want. Labour believes that the UK must not be left out of this process and we have made clear what elements we think should go with it.

At present we have very little monetary sovereignty. Even before we joined the ERM, Britain was forced in 1989 to raise its interest rates, to keep in line with the Germans. Moves to "pool" sovereignty in this area – through a European central bank accountable to all member states – would therefore probably give us more power over the monetary conditions than we have now! And we will, of course, retain control over fiscal and budgetary policy.

Even where exchange rates are fixed irrevocably, it is possible to keep the pound (with the Queen's head on it) but simply give its value in ecu on the back. This is similar to the situation at present with the Scottish pound

Wouldn't Britain be dominated by the Germans in any monetary union?

Germany is likely to be the most powerful economy in Europe whether we are in a monetary union with them or not. The question is whether we are likely to do better by keeping out of any move to EMU rather than being a part of it. If we stayed outside, we would naturally lose our power to influence European policy at all. And it is likely that in the European second division, we would find it hard to attract investment to Britain and would find our export markets shrinking.

The way forward for Britain is to negotiate positively with our EC partners in order to influence developments in a way that suits us and at the same time to introduce policies at home to strengthen our economy

If we have EMU, are we on the road to a Federal Europe?

Not at all. Labour believes that while monetary policy is probably best set at a European level, this is by no means true of fiscal and budgetary policy, which must remain the responsibility of member states.

Within a monetary union it will be sensible to have cooperation on economic policies to prevent beggar-my-neighbour attitudes, and to prevent competitive deflation. But there is no need to go further

THE TORY RECORD

● The performance of the UK economy has deteriorated relative to that of our main competitors in the past 10 years. Our trade deficit with Germany is now £8.9bn (1989), compared to £1.5bn in 1979. Manufacturing output grew less in the UK between 1979 and 1989 than in 17 of 20 OECD countries. Manufacturing investment fell as a share of Gross Domestic Product from 3.3 per cent in 1979 to 2.5 per cent in 1989. In Germany it increased over the same period. And inflation, which was at about the European average

(8.3 per cent) in 1978, the last full year of a Labour Government, is now way above it. All this despite over £90bn of North Sea Oil Revenue in today's prices!

● The Tories rejected Labour demands for early ERM entry, only joining for short-term political reasons on the eve of Tory Conference because it allowed them to cut interest rates. This cynical move has backfired as they are now unable to cut interest rates as they would like

● The Tories have not introduced any measures to promote industrial recovery to

LABOUR'S APPROACH

► Labour supports membership of the ERM, in which exchange rates are held within fixed bands. But we recognise that it is only part of the package needed to rebuild Britain's economy. Labour's policies to strengthen the supply side of British industry – in training, investment, research and development – are crucial in that package. The Tories have abdicated responsibility for these things

► With ERM membership and the Single Market of 1992, closer cooperation on monetary policy is both inevitable and desirable. This need not lead to the creation of a single currency, but it is clear that this is the desire of our EC partners. Labour believes it would not be in the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from such developments and was left in the second division

► Monetary union cannot of course be imposed on any member of the EC, despite the impression the Tories try to give. National parliaments will ultimately have to decide, taking into account the costs and benefits of such a move. The benefits include monetary stability and the elimination of currency speculation. The costs include the loss of ability to devalue – although it is arguable that this is not a powerful weapon for a trading economy like Britain, leading mainly to higher inflation and that devaluation has not got Britain very far in the past 25 years

► At present, the UK has very little power to alter monetary policy when it wants. When the Germans alter their interest rates, the rest of Europe is always affected, and usually has to follow. Therefore a move to a European central bank, where

nomy and Europe

accompany ERM entry – instead, cutting spending on training and industry and sending Britain into recession. Without these measures the full benefits of ERM membership will not be realised

● The Tories have constantly opposed the Social Charter, a measure that all other countries see as a vital accompaniment to increased economic integration, both to stop firms in different countries trying to undercut each other to the detriment of all, and to ensure that all citizens, and not just big business, benefit from a single market

● Rather than become seriously involved in the discussions concerning the possibility of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), the Tories have tried to hide their splits over Europe by peddling their "hard-ecu" scheme for a new currency to be introduced in parallel with all existing currencies. They cannot agree whether this would lead quickly to a single currency or is designed to avoid it!

● In fact, the hard-ecu scheme would create costly complexity, could be very deflationary and would not eliminate currency speculation within Europe

responsibility for European monetary policy is shared by all EC members rather than just being dictated by the German Bundesbank, implies a regaining of power. Labour believes that any central bank should be located in London

► Any movement towards monetary union should come after there has been substantial convergence of economic performance between member states, otherwise monetary union could create unbearable strains within the EC

► A European Central Bank must be politically accountable. This could be carried out by ECOFIN, which consists of the Economic and Finance Ministers from each country who are directly accountable to their national parliaments. There must also be an increase in funds for structural and regional support

to help weaker regions within a monetary union. But the establishment of monetary union would not mean a uniform economic policy throughout the EC: although cooperation is to be encouraged, fiscal and budgetary policy must remain the responsibility of member states. However we are clear that any European Central Bank set up must be politically accountable, and that there must be an improved system of regional support to help weaker regions in the EC.

We also reject rigid timetables. The key thing is that a substantial degree of economic convergence between the member states – in terms of adequate rates of growth and employment, as well as on inflation – must precede any movement toward monetary union



Illustration: Caroline Della Porta

What is Labour's policy on monetary union?

We believe that closer monetary cooperation is both inevitable and desirable. We also note that our EC partners are keen to advance towards monetary union and we are convinced that it would not be in the national interest to be left behind in any such developments. We will therefore negotiate positively with our European partners on these issues

How can ERM membership benefit Britain?

Labour called for ERM membership and believes it can help in building up Britain's economy. It helps tackle inflation, reduces the amount of currency speculation, and makes it easier for our businesses to plan and invest for the future, as exchange rates

are kept stable.

However, entry into the ERM must be accompanied by policies to boost investment in Britain and to bring our education and training up to European levels. Labour's supply-side policies are the only way to increase competitiveness, and to secure sustained growth and high employment. The Tories do not understand this and as usual believe in leaving everything to the market.

Of course within ERM, changes in production costs influence competitiveness. That is why Labour proposes to develop regular discussion between government, employers and trade unions to discuss economic prospects, and intends to provide detailed information on pay and prices in Britain and the EC and so help develop a broad understanding of what is feasible in the light of the economic realities



CLP members left to right, standing; Nigel Nuttall, Dave Hill, sitting; Kevin Durkin, Gerry Farrell, Kate Farrell, Noel O'Brien

Rossendale and Darwen is a Tory marginal covering 25 miles of Lancashire rural and urban landscape between the towns of Blackburn and Rochdale.

The sitting Tory MP is David Trippier, but the Labour Party has made substantial inroads into the local Tory vote and at the last General Election his majority was halved. It now stands at under 5,000. The Rossendale and Darwen CLP are confident that this time round they will take the seat and point to the Labour Party successes at the local elections as an indicator of how voters are moving their way.

The prospective parliamentary candidate is Janet Anderson who stood at the last election and proved so effective against David Trippier. She has a wealth of experience in the world of politics, having worked as assistant to both Jack Straw and Barbara Castle, and combines this with the down-to-earth knowledge of everyday problems that comes from being the mother of three children under 14.

"I'm very pleased to have been selected again," says Janet. "I've always made it plain that this is the only constituency I was ever interested in standing for. I've got some very close friends in the local Party and we've turned it round in the past eight years from one that was very inactive to a very well organised, thriving CLP."

The CLP have launched an active and high profile campaign, designed to target

specific voting groups. As so often these days, the Poll Tax is high on everyone's agenda. Nick Pilling is the CLP Treasurer and he identifies the importance of the Poll Tax in the area: "We have a huge amount of owner-occupied, terraced housing which was always fairly low rated. People have really suffered because of the introduction of the Poll Tax and many of those worse off are not natural Labour supporters."

Noel O'Brien, Vice Chair of the CLP, agrees: "I'm getting phone calls all the time about the Poll Tax, very often from people who have never voted Labour! There's a large section of retired people who own their terraced house and who have been really stung by the Poll Tax."

The CLP have been able to focus attention on Labour's fair rates proposals in contrast to Tory disarray on the Poll Tax. The local MP, David Trippier, has spoken against the Poll Tax and backed Heseltine in the recent Tory Leadership crisis. The CLP have highlighted his obvious differences with the Tory Party nationally, and contrasted that with his lack of action to help local people suffering from huge Poll Tax bills, the decline in the local manufacturing base and the deterioration of the National Health Service.



Janet Anderson PPC with top; Michael Murray; above, Nick Pilling and Gerry Farrell from the CLP and right, campaigning in Bacup Market

Photos: Gordon Mellor

26 **LPN visits Rossendale and Darwen where preparations for the General Election are in full swing**

Campaigning in Ross

John McManus, CLP Press Officer, has no doubt that one-time Tory voters are wavering in their support: "Trippier's lost a lot of credibility and the local Labour councils have had some very effective successes. That's vitally important because people see not just that Labour is fit to govern, but governing well."

The CLP members have listed the target voting groups – homeowners disillusioned with the Poll Tax, mortgage payers struggling with high interest rates and young unemployed people disenchanted with the Tories – and plan their campaign to highlight areas that are of direct relevance.

One of the major issues is the future of the health service and Janet recently spent a day working as a ward ancillary at Rossendale General Hospital. It's the only hospital left in the constituency and despite a major local campaign, it no longer has a maternity unit. Pregnant women have to travel to Burnley or Bury – a journey that can take up to two hours each way on public transport.

The hospital has been subject to "competitive tendering" for vital services provided by ancillary and domestic workers. Denise Barlow, the Ancillary Steward for COHSE, is delighted that Janet visited the hospital to see at first hand the work and the pressures. "We've got a three-year contract," she says, "but I want to know how I can live my life in three-year spans. It means I can't commit myself to a mortgage or a loan as I can never be certain that the contract will be renewed. I'm not an accountant but I have to go through all the figures and deal with all the fears."

The domestic assistants are paid £2.59 an hour for an eight-hour day of heavy



On the campaign trail with left, domestic supervisor, Maureen Vaughan and right, Stan Yates with Gordon Brown MP at Rossendale Valley Training Centre

cleaning. Maureen Vaughan, the domestic supervisor, has worked at the hospital for 23 years and she's saddened by the deterioration in standards: "We used to offer a Rolls Royce service but I've seen everything going downhill. The lasses here take a pride in their job – they do over and above what they should do, but there's never enough time. There used to be 20 full-time staff, now we're down to eight full-time and four part-time. It just can't be cut any more – if they're looking for more money to save when it comes up for tendering again, they'll have to look elsewhere."

Another issue affecting voters is local employment. Fifty per cent of industry in the constituency has a traditional manufacturing base and the most important of those is the boot and shoe industry. Michael Murray is General Secretary of Rossendale Union of Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives and he has seen the problem of job loss at first hand:

"In 1990 alone we saw 1,200 jobs being shed in this area. The problem of all the basic

industries is that this Government has turned its back on us. The shoe industry isn't dying – it's being strangled. Any constituency has a right to expect its MP to fight for them. When that MP turns his back against his own constituents, he doesn't deserve their support."

With active campaigns on the Poll Tax, the NHS, industry and employment, the local CLP has a full timetable but it hasn't neglected the vital aspect of fund-raising. Gerry Farrell, Janet's Agent, explains Rossendale and Darwen's novel approach:

"We try to get everyone actively involved so that they don't just hand over money, they talk about the issues involved. We've leafleted everyone and asked them to raise £20, then followed up with phone calls to reinforce that it's not just an appeal to individuals to dig into their pockets, but one to generate activity. So far, people have held coffee mornings, card schools – all sorts of social activities. Once people get over the understandable initial embarrassment of asking for money, they're surprised by how successful it is!"

The CLP are confident that their campaign will result in victory in the General Election. Janet sums up the feeling: "I'm looking forward very much to the General Election, whenever it comes. We're ready and we're sure we're going to have a major victory here in Rossendale and Darwen."



Photos: Gordon Mellor

Photo: Citizen Group of Newspapers

Recruit for victory

Every member shares the goal of building the Party into a stronger, better-funded party ready to fight and win the next Election. Turning that goal into reality is up to us all says Deborah Lincoln, Membership Officer

The Recruitment Pack enclosed with this issue of *Labour Party News* gives all of us who really care about the Party a golden opportunity to go out and do something about it. Every single Labour Party member must know one other person – a friend, member of the family, next-door neighbour, or someone in the same street or block of flats – who would have no hesitation in joining the Party. All they need is to be asked.

And if every Party member succeeded in doing just that, we'd have a Party that was twice as strong, and twice as ready to contest the next General Election.

Even if the Tories are still dithering over the date for that decisive contest, we also need the very best support for the local elections. They take place on May 2. And Labour's success on that day could well prove the cornerstone of the ultimate victory we all long for.

That's why we've included a Labour Party Recruitment "Action Pack" with every copy of this issue of *Labour Party News*.

It's designed to be easy for anyone to use. It slips into your pocket, or bag, so you can produce it and sign up a new Party member on the spot, at any time. The

instructions are clear and concise.

All you need to do is show one of the forms to a friend, relative or colleague, and ask them to fill it in. You'd be surprised how many people thought "they weren't the sort of people who could recruit Labour Party members", and who are now key members of our recruitment team.

Would you think 10... or 20... or 50 recruits to Labour beyond your scope? Last year's Labour Recruiters of the Year signed up over 200 new members for their local Party! All we are asking of you, is to go out and find just one or two.

Should you feel at all nervous about the prospect, get in touch with us and we'll send you advice on how to proceed. You'll get recruitment tips, and an easy-to-follow step-by-step guide to the most successful recruitment methods.

And if you want, we'll put you in touch with other key recruiters, so you can swap plans and ideas informally.

Also, as part of this campaign there will be a campaign leaflet, which will be available to local Parties at special subsidised prices for distribution to Labour supporters in your area. Encourage your local Party to place an order and use this leaflet as a basis for a recruitment campaign in one of your key areas.

Labour is now mounting an intense recruitment drive. We are determined to give every member the tools they need to do the job. When you pick up Labour's Recruitment Action Pack, the future is – literally – in your hands.

Please make the very best of it.

Contact Membership Services on 071 234 3313/3362 for further leaflets.



Renewing your membership for 1991

By now, Party members whose subscriptions were due on January 1, 1991 will have received, or will be receiving shortly a membership renewal notice from Head Office.

Your 1991 membership card will be sent direct to your home from Head Office once your subscription has been received by our Membership Processing Unit.

Included with your renewal notice is a Direct Debit form for you to complete and return if you wish to pay this way. We hope that as many members as possible will choose to pay by Direct Debit, the simplest way of renewing your membership year after year – and it saves the Party time and money!

For members who wish to renew by cash, just get in touch with your local Party, who will arrange to collect your subscription locally. Your local Party will send on your subscription, and you will receive your card from Head Office shortly after that.

Local Campaigning

There are several ways in which you can help the Labour Party to victory

Ann Yeghiss reports

In the May elections not only do we want to win more seats and councils, and so strengthen our already impressive position in local government, but the elections will also be a major test of Labour's standing and the results will influence the timing of the next General Election. People are concerned that, despite the change in Prime Minister, the Government is mishandling the economy, neglecting the needs of children and failing to invest properly in the NHS and a modern transport system. The Conservatives are out of touch with people's day to day concerns.

Labour has the ideas and plans that can modernise Britain and brings its industries, skills, hospitals and essential services up to the standard of the best in Europe. The best way of financing local government is by abolishing the Poll Tax and moving to a system of fair rates thus providing high quality services to local communities. Labour has the better way for Britain.

Whether you're out canvassing on doorsteps, in shopping centres or just discussing over a drink in the local the information and campaigning points on these, and other pages of LPN, should be invaluable

HOW YOU CAN HELP IN THE LOCAL ELECTIONS

The local elections in England and Wales (excluding London) in May provide an excellent opportunity for all Party members to become involved in election organisation and it is excellent preparation for the General Election campaign!

It can often be difficult for individual members to become active in elections. Many worry about the time involved and about canvassing. However, there are a great many ways that you can contribute to Labour's campaign locally. The first thing is to find what is planned in your local area – who are your candidates and who is organising the campaign. Sometimes finding this information is the most difficult part of getting involved! If all else fails, the Regional Offices listed in LPN should be able to help. More specific help includes:

1 The Electoral Register. Make sure that your friends and neighbours are on the Electoral Register and entitled to vote. Everyone who is a British and Commonwealth citizen and will be 18 or over between February 1991 and February 1992 should be on the Register.

2 Many people want to vote in elections but can't do so in person. We all know people in our street who are housebound or have to work away from home frequently. If they're Labour supporters get them to complete a postal vote application. Also anyone going on holiday on May 2 can apply for a temporary postal vote – check that there are no excursions from a local pensioners' group that day! If you need more information contact your local Party or ring our POSTAL VOTE HOTLINE on 071-234 3431.

3 If you are involved in local organisations make sure that your council candidates get an invite to one of their events or meetings. It might be a local residents' association, pre-school playgroup, or a local church group. If the candidates can go along make sure that they know of the group's activities. It would also be a good idea to invite the Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate along too.

4 If you want to go canvassing but feel unsure of what to do then demand that training is provided. It's much easier when there is a group of members rather than one or two so give it a try. If you do find it difficult to



go out then find out if you can do some telephone canvassing. Many local Parties are now doing this either to canvass in elections or to do surveys of voters in the pre-election period.

5 There are usually plenty of other jobs as well as canvassing. If you've got time to help, particularly during the day, make sure that Party officers and candidates know.

If you can do any of the above things you are well on the way to becoming a Labour Party activist. If you've enjoyed it and got views on how the local campaign can be improved make sure your Party officers know. Above all, make sure you repeat your help in the General Election!

VOLUNTEERS FOR PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTIONS

Parliamentary by-elections are exciting and demanding events for the Party nationally and locally. Great political importance is attached to the result of each by-election. The Labour Party has developed a reputation second to none in its professional approach to these by-election campaigns.

This means that we have to take every by-election seriously and ensure that every available Party resource is used effectively. Our key resource is Party members, especially those from outside the constituency who can really make the difference in these by-elections.

Members coming into by-elections to help out is not new. We are now trying to put it on a more systematic basis by building up a database of such members who can help the local Party and professional staff. We are

particularly interested in those who can spend several days working full-time in a by-election.

We can't offer more than a warm welcome and accommodation but it is an invaluable way of learning the latest campaign techniques (useful for when you go back to your home constituency). There is no better way that Party members with the available time can assist the Party in the pre-election period.

Experience isn't necessary, just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. If you think you can help then write or ring: John Braggins, Senior Organisation Officer, The Labour Party, 071-234 3376.

POLL TAX: THE CON CONTINUES

The Poll Tax is cursed. It dooms everyone it touches. The Tories thought that a change of Leadership would provide the solution, but the Government still does not know what to do about the Poll Tax, as their dissent and indecision shows.

In seven days, December 2 to 7 1990, the Tory Association of District Councils launched a campaign to abolish the shire counties, the Tory controlled Association of County Councils launched a campaign to save the shire counties, Tory MPs backed a property tax, Tory MPs opposed a property tax, they also backed a flat rate tax and others opposed a flat rate tax and one Tory MP even favoured the complete abolition of local government financial autonomy!

The only conclusions that Labour can draw from those events are:

- that Poll Tax bills will not be reduced this year and the average will be in excess of £400
- that the Tories will enter the next elections with the tax largely intact
- that local government faces chaos and confusion as the government continues to twist and turn

For more Tory inconsistencies on the Poll Tax the following are available from Labour Party sales. They cost £1 each plus 10 per cent postage and packing.

On the hoof – Michael Heseltine and the Poll Tax

No change, no ideas – John Major and the Poll Tax

Nothing rules – A diary of Conservative statements on the Poll Tax, 2-7 December 1990.

WIN WITH CFL

How would you like somebody to run all your Committee Room activities, except making the tea? Sounds impossible? Not any more. If you can beg, borrow or buy a computer then Computing for Labour (CFL) has the solution. CFL's election system ELPACK can help you win the local elections. The forerun-

ner of CFL was formed back in 1983 by volunteers who are also Party activists and one of their first software packages was ELPACK. Since then it has been extensively developed, putting in extra features requested by users, many of whom say it is very user-friendly. If you can use a computer keyboard and you know about elections – then you can use ELPACK. Computers can help you win elections and have been doing this by making the work of running them easier, and giving more efficient targeting and knocking-up. PCELPACK has been used successfully in all the major by-elections from the Vale of Glamorgan onwards.

Most of the functions that ELPACK performs are used in exactly the same way for local, by-elections or a General Election, except for one important difference. In local elections it is usually used in marginal seats and key seats. In a General Election it's invaluable for use in solid Labour areas, to get the vote out.

It's crucial that ELPACK reflects users' needs and CFL listens to its users. Their annual July Election Debrief sessions are to be held this year in London and Manchester. They add the comments from these sessions to the information that they receive from any by-elections and a list of suggested enhancements are drawn up. The programme changes are made and tested for release in mid-February each year.

Chris Northedge from CFL said, "We do not have the luxury of being alone in using computers. The Tories have two competing systems, and the Liberal Democrats have their equivalent. The difference is, we charge a minimal cost, the Tories a full market rate."

CFL can provide your CLP not only with computer software, at low cost, but also complete packages of computer, printer and software. They can also arrange all your training needs and by joining CFL you will be kept up-to-date with all their software changes.

If you're attending the Local Government Conference in February, visit the CFL stand there or contact them at 195 Walworth Road, London SE17. Tel: 071 701 3665.

CFL's ELPACK stands for Election Package and was written initially as an election tool, but it's very useful between elections for campaigning. Its development is now primarily on the IBM compatible PC so it would be advisable for branches or CLPs who are starting from scratch to invest in a compatible computer. The OPUS offer on page 16 is ideal for starters and also for those wishing to upgrade their present system.

In order to use ELPACK, the Electoral Register available from local authorities, needs to be loaded into the computer system. The Party has set up a project to do this, or it can be typed in – ELPACK is designed so that road names, same surnames etc do not need re-keying. Once the raw data is in the system various information can be stored against individuals and

because of this it is necessary to register under the Data Protection Act.

The major benefits of using ELPACK are –

- Targeting – sending leaflets, questionnaires, women only, council tenants, postal votes, poster sites etc.
- Printing – labels, personalised letters, canvass sheets, more legible Reading sheets, car lift lists etc.
- Selection – Select by parties, current or previous voting intention, date-of-birth (pensioners), range of poll numbers, ward or street etc.
- Identifying voters – number of Poll Tax payers per house, some ethnic origin names (ELPACK has a names data file drawn up by experts).
- Analysis – ELPACK analyses the canvass and voting pattern of a district, ward or constituency and stores the information for up to eight elections.
- Information – Up to 40 different items of information can be stored on any individual person.

And you don't need armies of people doing all those tasks!

For help and advice please contact Roy Hill, Constituency Advice Office, at Walworth Road. Tel: 071-234 3375



HI-TECH MAIL

The Party now sends out a regular weekly communication via BT Gold. This is an electronic mailing system received either by Fax machine or a modem linked to a computer by a telephone line. The computer method has the edge over receiving by Fax as it allows access to the message at any time, has security and messages can be sent back. During the General Election campaign Head Office will be communicating at least once a day via BT Gold. For further information please contact Jackie Nixon, in the Organisation Directorate at Head Office, or CFL for a form to receive by computer.

NOTICEBOARD RATES

LINEAGE: 50p per word plus 15% VAT
SEMI-DISPLAY: £14 per single column centimetre plus 15% VAT
SIXTEENTH PAGE: (64mm deep x 43mm wide) £70 plus 15% VAT
EIGHTH PAGE: (64mm deep x 90mm wide) £125 plus 15% VAT
COPY DEADLINES: April/May: April 8. June/July: July 15
September/October: September 9. November/December: November 18
Please send your advert with payment to: Noticeboard.
150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT. Tel: 071-234 3350

SERVICES

Banners for campaigns, exhibitions, festivals, trade union affiliated. 071-281 0772.

Banners. Traditional and modern. Hand-painted for trade unionists by trade unionists - May Day banners, phone Carla Jamison 0623-862505.

McCormacks Solicitors. Michael McCormack, Andrew Palazzo, Ugo Palazzo. Full legal service. Legal Aid, 122 Mile End Road, London E1 4UN. 01-790 4339. 24-hour emergency service for arrested persons. 01-265 8331.

Dreambeam Media - recycled paper supplier (Brighton). Prices 0273-509552 (24 hours)

Racenights profitable, popular fun, cine/video format, projectionists nationwide, free brochure Racefilms 0782 784666.

Thatcher's - one sensible decision (apart from resigning) - taking Vitamin C. Pure powder B.P. Dissolves easily. Half price of tablets. £5 for 240 gms. inclusive of post/packing. WELLVIT, Department LPN, Honeyholme Lane, Cliviger, Burnley, BB10 4SR.

EVENTS

NOLS Lecture
Tony Benn MP
"Does socialism owe more to Jesus than to Marx"
7.30pm 6 February
Committee Room 11
House of Commons
Tickets available from
Paul Richards, NOLS Chair,
c/o 150 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1JT.
Tel: 071-701 1234

BOOKS

Books wanted on politics, labour history, economic social issues and pamphlets. Libraries purchased. Please write or telephone Clifton Books, 34 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex. SS0 7LX. 0702-331004.

HOLIDAYS

Blackpool Atremer Hotel, Hull Road, En-suites, mins to Tower, Winter Gardens and shops. Flexible meal times for delegates. LP/TU, 10% discount. Phone 0253 23721.

Northern Tours

**Denton Labour Club,
Ashton Road, Manchester M34 3JF
Telephone: 061-336 7812**

Sincere best wishes and greetings to all our many friends for their tremendous support during 1990.

Our 1991 programme will take us to USSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Albania, Yugoslavia, Austria, France and Germany. Write or phone (24 hours) to reserve your copy of our 1991 Brochure.

All excursions and sightseeing on all holidays (except Albania) are included in the price of your holiday. No hidden extras to pay. The efforts of everybody involved at Northern Tours is voluntary

Support our Labour Party

Are you unsure what the Labour Party really has to say?

*Do you wish you could receive regular mailings about Labour's Policies?
Here's your answer!*

The Labour Party Subscription Service. 1991

This unique service offers you a wide range of subscriptions at a substantial saving in cost and postage. We have six different subscriptions to suit everyone's pocket.

- 1. Campaign Briefing** UK £7 Overseas £12
- 2. Policy and Information** UK £75 Overseas £100
(including all documents in the run up to the General Election)
- 3. Labour Party News** UK £14 Overseas £18
Bulk Copies £38 for 10 (maximum order 20) Further bulk copies from LPN
- 4. Annual Conference** UK £40 Overseas £60
- 5. Postal Information Subscription** - include all the above subscriptions plus all press releases posted on daily basis.
- 6. Fax Information subscriptions** - includes all subscriptions from no 1 to no 5 plus press releases faxed on a daily basis.

For further information on any of the subscriptions please write to Labour Party Subscriptions 150 Walworth Road London SE17 1JT, or why not phone us on 071-234 3410. We will be happy to help you.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Moving house? Use this form to tell us and we will re-direct your copies of LPN



To: **Labour Party News**, Room 408, Freepost, London SE17 1BR.

Old address _____

_____ Postcode _____

New Details

Title _____ Forename _____ Surname _____

Date of birth _____ Trade Union _____

New Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

My national membership number is _____

CLP _____ Are you a councillor YES/NO

Entertainers celebrate the Labour Party

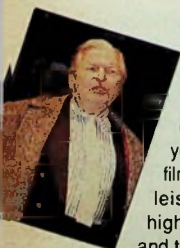
Party Night

A host of stars of stage, screen and television are getting together at the Adelphi Theatre to put on a glittering show of support for the Labour Party. Some of those involved talked to LPN



"I am delighted to be directing Party Night, not just because I think this is a very important time for the Labour Party but I also get to work with actors I respect so much. I know I'm prejudiced in Labour's favour, but all through the 80s it seemed to me that the Tories only appeared able to rally game show hosts and second-rate comedians to their cause, and here we are with class acts."

Philip Hedley, Director



"I'm for a caring society, where public services have priority over private greed. Where the young have a life of fulfilment, both at work and leisure, with continuing high quality of education and training. Where the old can live out their lives with dignity and where the NHS is for all without waiting lists. I think Labour has the right priorities."

Hugh Manning, Actor, Assistant Producer

"I want to use my skills as an actress to support the Labour Party in the hope that they will

undo the damage that has been done by the Tories to the Arts.



Artists of any kind worth their salt must challenge the society that we live in and I'm doing that by showing my support for Labour."

Eileen Pollack, Actress



"I've always believed that Labour has the answer to the social and economic ills of the country. In the last 11

years the NHS,

Education and the Arts have been totally undermined. Conservatives have reputations of being philistines and they are - they would see the Arts die tomorrow and not bat an eyelid. With the Labour Party's emphasis on Education, the Arts is clearly on the agenda - we know it's not going to happen overnight, but the sincerity is there. I'll always fight for the Labour Party."

David Yip, Actor

ENTERTAINERS INCLUDE -

Peggy Ashcroft, Billy Bragg, Annette Crosbie, Ben Elton, Stephen Fry, Jill Gascoine, Glenda Jackson, Anna Massey, Bill Owen, Tony Robinson, Anthony Sher, Rudolph Walker and many more

**7.30 pm Sunday 17 February 1991
ADELPHI THEATRE STRAND WC2
Tickets £5 £6 £10 £15 £25 £35**

**Available from First Call.
Telephone bookings accepted
(All major credit cards) on 071-
240 7200 or 071-836 3464 or write
to PO Box 92, London WC2**



John McCarthy was kidnapped on his way to Beirut airport on April 17, 1986. He has been held for almost five years, Terry Waite for four years and Jack Mann for almost two years

The Friends of John McCarthy urge Labour Party

members not to forget the hostages

How long is too long for an innocent British citizen to be held hostage in a stinking cell in the wreckage of Beirut? And why is it that only the British, renowned historically and internationally for their skill at diplomacy, have been unable to gain the freedom of three British passport holders? These are questions the Friends of John McCarthy have raised over and over again. And we've come to realise that we still have to prod even supportive politicians and activists on a regular basis, lest in the quagmire of Middle Eastern politics the British hostages in Beirut disappear from view and are forgotten.

The Friends of John McCarthy was set up in 1988 in the face of the disinterest of most British politicians and despite the advice of the Foreign Office not to make a fuss. At that time few wanted to openly question the Thatcherite line on hostage taking. "We do not do deals with terrorists," said Mrs Thatcher, as always riding her highly principled high horse. It was the sort of dogmatic, simplistic, uncompromising and unrealistic stance we came to expect from the so-called Iron Lady. She might as well have said "let them rot in hell" for that is what Britain's Beirut hostages are presently doing.

Brian Keenan, the British-born hostage released

through the hard work of the Irish Government in August, tells us that John McCarthy was sure his Government would come to his rescue. It was left to Brian, native of Belfast, already a more sophisticated political animal, to break the bad news - that they were in for a long haul.

Back home, it took a handful of politically inexperienced friends of John to thrust the plight of Beirut's hostages on to the political agenda.

The Foreign Office's terse, word-processed replies to thousands of disgruntled constituents slowly changed. First in tone only but then in substance. It was doing "everything we can" but pointed out that certain pieces in the elaborate Lebanese/Middle Eastern puzzle needed to be in place in order to free British hostages.

In January 1991 the pieces are in place. Diplomatic relations with Iran and Syria have recently been restored. And there has been an unexpected bonus: the demise of the grande dame of uncompromise. "Reasonable, listening people" are now in charge of policy, we are told by Tory propagandists.

What we need now is the final push from all our loyal Labour Party friends.

The new Foreign Office Minister with the appropriate responsibility (Douglas Hogg) and the new Prime Minister need constant reminders, directly and via other MPs, that the Beirut hostages have suffered long enough.

It is time John McCarthy, Terry Waite and Jack Mann were free.

V I E W P O I N T

Pat Nevin, football player for Everton and Scotland, talks to LPN about his political roots

"The basis of my socialism comes from my background.

You never forget where you come from and you never forget that there are a lot of other people who aren't in a position to help themselves"

A few years ago I could describe myself very easily politically – I was a very strong Socialist firmly behind the Labour Party. My political hero was Tony Benn and my own views closely echoed his. But now a lot of things have changed and a lot of the ideas of that time have been adapted. I have got a lot of time and support for Neil Kinnock – he's done a lot of things that are necessary to get Labour back into power.

The basis of my socialism comes from my background. I was brought up in an area of Glasgow called Easterhouse which is always described as one of the worst housing estates in Western Europe. We weren't really destitute or anything like that but my dad had to work really hard. In that sort of environment you tend to find out which side your bread is buttered, you never forget where you come from and you never forget that there are a lot of other people who aren't in a position to help themselves.

In fact, being brought up in Scotland probably gives me my biggest problem politically. I feel very sorry for the Scottish people – they've voted for a Socialist government year after year and if a country doesn't get the government it wants then I think that that's a good argument for getting its own government. But the Labour Party needs its Scottish votes. As for me, I've lived in England for a long time now and I would hate it if Scotland sold England and the English people down the river. I've played football in both England and Scotland and there's no doubt that both politically and in terms of national identity there is a divide. They are two separate nations, although I think a lot of people tend to over-generalise about the difference; for instance, I often hear the view that poverty in the North breeds footballing success and fanaticism. That's a nice argument, but I've played for Chelsea and there isn't a more fanatical set of supporters than theirs!

Football is now of national importance. The other night I saw a programme where a local council was suggesting that football should be treated in the same way as opera and ballet. Of

course, football isn't an art form but as entertainment it is of great importance and not just for the working classes. Football is a sport enjoyed by all classes.

One of the things you have to get used to is the intense attitude people have towards the game. One Saturday, when I was first playing for Chelsea and was only 18 or 19, the team sheet was being read out to the crowd before the game. When it came to Number 11, Paul Canoville – a black player – our own fans booed.

That day I scored the winning goal and the only comments I would give the press were about how disgusted I was with our fans for behaving like that. At the next game, as we ran onto the pitch, the first name the fans started chanting was Paul Canoville's. That was the first time I realised the power you can have as a footballer. And that's a power you have to use.

The bond between players and fans is an important one; the confidence that their cheering gives you is heartening. But I'm also saddened by how deep the fans' feelings can be, because if you took football away from them it would leave a big void. I love my job and I'm dedicated to it but if football didn't exist, I could still live

quite happily. At the time of Hillsborough I was playing in the other semi-final and watching the news that night made me feel that football itself didn't mean a thing, not when someone's just lost a son.

I do feel though that football does reflect society in some ways. When I began, I thought it would be all working class lads together trying to find a way out, but in reality it's all pretty conservative. Footballers vote for who'll give them the lowest taxes and mortgage rates – wider issues don't tend to come into it. Unfortunately they're not the only ones who think that way.

In my opinion the "economic miracle" of the Tory Government is a sham. Britain was rich when we owned our own heavy industry, our own transport system, our own communication networks. Now much of it's been sold off.

I've travelled a lot and I compare how things are abroad with how they are at home. As a result, there are things I'm proud of here but a lot of the things I was proud of have gone and it's Mrs Thatcher who's got rid of them. And more and more people are starting to see that there's no substance to the "miracle".

But I still have hope for our country; the Labour Party is very together and ready now, whilst Mrs Thatcher has finally paid the price for what she and the Tories have done.

They've got rid of her. Now we'll get rid of them.



Photo: Everton FC

Pat Nevin

LPN TRAVEL

Barcelona

**£562 per person
6-11 July 1991**

Barcelona is the cultural, economic and political capital of Catalonia. This week-long tour combines an extensive sightseeing programme in Barcelona as well as full-day excursions to Monserrat, Gerona and Figueras. Visits in Barcelona will include the Ramblas, the Gothic quarter with its Roman and medieval remains, the Cathedral, the Picasso museum and the Joan Miro Foundation. Monserrat boasts a magnificent mountain monastery, and Gerona and Figueras the unique Dali Theatre Museum.

The price includes return air fare, half board accommodation, all transfers in Spain, insurance, and the services of an English speaking guide.

Prague

**31 July-7 August 1991
£538 per person**

Prague is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

This week-long tour combines sightseeing with political discussions and visits. The programme includes an extensive city tour, excursions to the ancient town of Kutna Hora and Nelahozeves, the birthplace of Dvorak, as well as free time to explore the centre of Prague.

The price includes return air fare, accommodation, sightseeing and political programme, most meals, all transfers in Czechoslovakia and on excursions, the services of an English-speaking Czech guide.

For further information, and detailed itinerary, please write to: LPN Barcelona/Prague tour, Regent Holidays Ltd, 13 Small Street, Bristol BS1 1DE or phone 0272 211711.



SAVE £££s OFF YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY WITH TRAVEL CLUB

**PHONE NOW TO GUARANTEE YOUR
PERFECT HOLIDAY**

Just see how much money you'll save. Your discount is a full 5% off the total price of your holiday. So add up all the costs of your holiday, including the 'extras' like supplements, surcharges and car hire, and you'll discover why there's never been a better time to book with LPN Travel.

For example you can save up to £125 on a £2,500 holiday or £50 on a £1,000 holiday. Also for every booking made through the travel club, the Labour Party receives a contribution to party funds.

**5% HOLIDAY
DISCOUNTS
includes late
bookings**



How it works

All you have to do is look through the brochures of ABTA recognised tour operators and select the holiday of your choice.

Then telephone our special hotline number 061 832 4677 giving us details of the holiday you've chosen including flight and hotel codes and stating whether you want to pay all the cost of your holiday, or just the deposit.

A receipt will be sent to you by return of post confirming your booking.

Within 14 days you'll receive your tour operator's confirmation. Check it carefully to make sure all the details of your holiday are correct. 10 weeks prior to your departure date, a final invoice will be sent showing your saving and advising you of any balances due. Then approximately 10 days before you depart you'll get your tickets and travel documents. Flight and ferry tickets can also be booked through the Travel Hotline. We strongly recommend that all our customers take out an insurance policy at the time of booking. Full details of LPN discounted insurance will be advised at the time of booking.

The Power

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Recruitment Action Pack



Pack

WIN!



**Dinner with a
Labour MP plus
a guided tour
round the House
of Commons.**

You get an entry in the regular draw for this chance-of-a-lifetime for every single new member you recruit!

USE IT TO MAKE SURE LABOUR WINS THE NEXT ELECTION

Labour's strength is in our membership. Doubling the membership doubles our strength.

Use this recruitment pack to get just one person you know to join Labour. If every Party member brings in only one recruit, it will be a significant step towards winning the next General Election.

Your recruitment pack is inside this issue of Labour Party News. It's up to you.



WIN!



The coveted Recruiter of the Year award.

Every year at the Party Conference a presentation is made to the person who has recruited the most new members during the year... and there's a separate category for Trades Union members.

- A bronze rose badge for recruiting just 10 new members...
- A silver rose badge for recruiting 50 new members...
- **and a prestigious gold rose badge** if you recruit 200 or more new members to the Labour Party.

WIN!